



The History of

COALFIELDS SOCCER

Sid (Celtic) Grant
B.E.M.

FOREWORD

This book, which traces the development of soccer on the South Maitland coalfields, is inextricably woven with the area's history and its sporting development.

Its author, Mr. Sid Grant, is one of the foremost authorities on the sport in Australia. His wide-ranging involvement in soccer, coupled with his dedication and innovation, have made him a recognised expert and an accepted historian.

I hope this publication will help retain essential information on the development of soccer in the region, and highlight the involvement and efforts of many people at a variety of levels.

KEN BOOTH,
Minister for Sport and Recreation.

*Dedicated to
Bill Beaney
of Soccer Fame*

D = 101540

THE AUTHOR

I have been asked to write a few lines about the author, who needs little introduction to soccer folk.

He was a player with Kurri Under-18 and later became club president.

He was a regular spectator at games for 58 years and kept meticulous records as his hobby. He is known far and wide as Answerman for Soccer. He wrote for many years under the name of "Celtic".

The season 1937 saw his greatest involvement in the game: State President, National Councillor, National Selector, State Selector, North Selector, besides State Schools Selector.

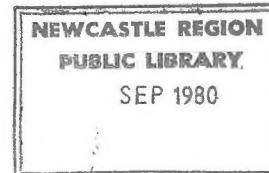
He received great joy when he managed the Australian XI v England Amateurs in 3rd Test, this gave the Aussies the Ashes.

In 1952, he was made a life member of N.S.W.S.A. In 1977, he was awarded the B.E.M. for services to sport. He has written four books on the round ball code. Shall I end by saying he is Mr. Soccer.

— by P.J.

The editor expresses his sincere thanks to Mr. Jack Manion — former soccer international — for his continued help and suggestions in preparing the notes for publication.

— S.J.G.



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THANKS FOR HELP!

A thousand thanks to Weston Bears for coming to the aid of this publication. Weston decided to carry the financial deficiency to stop the project from ending. It is hoped that former players, officials and followers will support this volume.

OUR SPONSORS

"From a little Acorn a giant Oak Grew"

At the turn of the century Peter and Mary David arrived in Australia on their honeymoon. Mary from a tiny village, Zahle, in Lebanon, Peter from Damascus, Syria. After a short stay in Wickham they finally settled in Abermain. At this point commenced a saga that Abermain, the coalfields, and indeed Australia, may well be proud of. They reared seven children in the town — four boys, Alf, Joe, Phil and Fred, and three girls, Alma, Del and Kay.

Peter's earnings at the local coalmine amounted to £3/7/6 a week. As the children grew they did their share to supplement the meagre family income. Youngsters Phil and Fred attended local picture shows, fights, and other places of entertainment selling fish that Alf earlier had travelled to Newcastle markets to purchase.

Alf and Joe, the older brothers, still in their early teens, visited in a horse drawn vehicle, local areas that extended to Wollombi, Congewai, Sweetmans Creek, Broke, Singleton and Chichester, selling items of drapery and mercery.

The author of this book recalls that every year Peter used to donate £1 to each local school football and cricket team and he actually introduced soccer into the Kurri Convent School by donating the first soccer ball to the Sisters.

Alf, Phil and Fred soon became devotees of the boxing game. Alf, with another local fighter Tom Mack (McMillan) became promoters of boxing and Alf regularly was ever-ready to substitute himself, regardless of any weight disadvantage, for scheduled participants who failed to turn up.

While all this was going on, Joe, early displaying business acumen that was to distinguish him all his life, left the old town for the "big smoke". He opened a small grocery shop in Forbes Street, East Sydney. Gradually he built the business into a viable proposition. Dedication, strength of purpose, and even at this early stage, a touch of genius marked his progress — but hard work and long hours also played their part.

As time went by the family opened a number of retail grocery stores in various suburbs, and a Grocery Warehouse in Buckingham Street, Sydney. Young Fred shared his business interests with his

almost fanatical love of boxing. His elder brothers, appreciating the dangers associated with continued boxing, tried to persuade him to concentrate solely on the business and forget boxing, but he resisted their entreaties. However, it was a source of great delight to all the family that eventually Fred became the Middleweight Amateur boxing champion of N.S.W. It is characteristic of the family that they did not expect any employee to perform a task that they were not prepared to do themselves.

Charities of many kinds were assisted. An elderly ladies' home situated close to Buckingham Street named Our Lady of Consolation Home was struggling to survive. The nuns and the elderly occupants excited the family interest and Alf was appointed to act as an intermediary to requests for advice and financial assistance. He travelled many thousands of miles in Sydney's metropolitan area before finally selecting an area at Rooty Hill. Today, a magnificent building servicing 300 elderly women, each with their own room with provision for 125 occupants in the nursing section, is the result of his efforts. The finance for this was provided by charitable friends in the community.

The David girls also showed initiative and conducted their own businesses in Sydney and suburbs. One of their ventures included a popular restaurant in Newcastle in the fifties. Being owned by Kay, Alma and Del it was appropriately named KADS Restaurant.

Alf, Phil and Fred retired from the business in 1966. Joe and his family continued the tradition. Joe died in 1972. His death generated tributes from all sections of the community, businessmen and parliamentarians, church and civic leaders. Commenting on the period leading to his death (from cancer) one biographer wrote as follows:—

Joe David.

What do we say of him?

An adventurer.

A rugged individualist.

Captain of industry.

A family man.

A humble man.

A religious man.

He is all of these things, a man who worked behind the scenes and shunned the limelight, who arose from simple beginnings, the second son of a Lebanese migrant who, with little schooling, progressed through life from a coalminer to a great industrialist and grazier. However, his greatest act was his death.

Cancer — he had no complaint, he accepted this as he had accepted the problems of life.

To see this man breaking the news of his affliction to his family, To see him, with his family gathered about him, recount his lifetime, To see him explain to each member of the family what he expected of them after his death,

To see him apologise for the few errors he may have made, To see him request a cancer researcher to use him whilst alive for further research, irrespective of the outcome, To see him pray.

These are the things which make us so proud of this man. Joe David — A great man.

The business which began in a small store in 1927 is now the largest wholesaler of groceries, wines and spirits in Australia with sales in 1979 expected at \$380,000,000. The company DAVIDS HOLDINGS PTY. LIMITED is still family owned.

SOCER ON COALFIELDS

Soccer had invaded the fringe areas of what we call the South Maitland Coalfields, years before the world famed geologist, Sir Edgeworth David, found coal near Deep Creek at Abermain.

Centres such as Greta and East Greta saw soccer in 1887 and in 1901 respectively, years before the silence of rich coal seams, under virgin bushlands, were awakened from their long slumbers.

When the discovery was made, collieries sprang up at Heddon-Greta, Stanford Merthyr, Pelaw Main, Hebburn, Abermain, Neath, Aberdare and Cessnock.

This industrial area soon attracted workmen and their families, who deserted the dying Minmi and Greta and hit the rough tracks across the hills to Kurri and later to Cessnock. All brought with their chattels, two common bonds — the desire to find permanent employment and the love of soccer.

It is the aim of this project to place on record the birth, the growth and development of soccer on the South Maitland Coalfields.

This has not been easy as few official records have been preserved and months of research have been necessary.

It hopes to record names of players, officials and results — that means history.

The code has experienced its "ups and downs" in its seventy years of existence.

Many declare that its Golden Years lay between 1925 and 1930. The depression of the early thirties, at times, dimmed its lamp of progress to a mere flicker, but in its darkest depression, the loyalty and devotion of a noble band of workers piloted the game through such turbulent waters to calmer seas.

The roots sown by pioneers were deep and secure, for the code is fast regaining its former popularity. A recent survey shows clearly a revival of strength in the junior, juvenile and school ranks where there is a keener appreciation of the arts and skills of the world's most popular code of football.

The trade depression of the thirties drove scores of experienced players to the cities in search of employment. Their soccer prowess was a big asset on their personal references. A noted Coalfield educationalist wrote, "We export, high quality coal — our best brains and our soccer stars".

It would be naive not to admit that the standard of club administration had fallen short of that to be desired but no one could doubt the loyalty and sincerity of the men, who shouldered the task of keeping the soccer flag flying. In this group, there were legions whose names are too many to record — many will remain forgotten. At the peak of its popularity, the Coalfields despaired by bad and dishonest administration in Newcastle, planted the seed for the birth of the first State League.

Coalfields' participation in the formation of the State League in 1926-27 was so keen that it is essential to review certain details here.

In 1926, pressure on the N.S.W. Soccer Association in Sydney forced that body to set up two committees to submit reports on this demand for reform.

- (1) The Association Committee of Messrs. S. H. Stack, C. P. Dixon, S. A. Storey, P. J. Shepherd, H. Reay — to present the anti-State League Case.
- (2) Clubs' Committee of W. Beaney, J. Earp, H. Epps — to present the case for a State League.

Data at that time revealed —

- (a) Clubs in favour of State League were: Woonona, Granville, Annandale, Kurri, Weston, Cessnock, Aberdare.
- (b) Clubs opposed were: New Lambton, West Wallsend, Wallsend, Holmesville, St. George, Gladesville, Canterbury, East Suburbs, Balmain.
- (c) In favour of modified State League — Balgownie, Corrimal.
- (d) Non-committal — Adamstown, Newcastle, Pyrmont, Thirroul.

After a vigorous debate, an application to form a State League of eight Clubs was rejected.

This decision led to a breakaway organisation of 11 clubs — Annandale, Granville, Gladesville, St. George, Woonona, Metters, Wallsend, Aberdare, Cessnock, Kurri, Weston.

The new scheme boomed for four or five seasons, then sunk into a depression. Why did this occur? A generous criticism would list the following conclusions:

1. Economic depression when unemployment hit soccer areas.
2. Club control did not give the organisation the high quality service demanded.
3. The failure of the organisers to give the competition a degree of Australian content needed — such as semi-finals, finals etc. so prominent in all other codes. This defect was shown up in the action of the Rugby League officials in staging the Kurri v Cessnock R.L. semi-final. This sole event made the handling code the top crowd-pleaser for the first time. The year previously when Cessnock and Kurri finished level for premiership, a call for a play-off was turned down by the administration — a tragic error which cast the code on the Coalfields into the shadows for the next 50 seasons.

4. Degree of bungling on the tour by New Zealand in 1932 — tour caused loss and the demotion of Speer's Point, one of the only financial clubs.

Years passed and when the 1943 breakaway occurred, the Sydney and Newcastle club deserted its Coalfields friends and left those clubs in the wilderness. The road back started in 1951, when the writer, as Assistant State Secretary, reorganised the Northern League and promoted Cardiff, Lake Macquarie, Greta Austral and Weston back to senior soccer.

Under the present Northern Soccer Federation, the game has regained much popularity on the Coalfields. All look to greater deeds by the time that the code will celebrate its Centenary in 1980 in Sydney and in 1983 in the North. At the present, Coalfield clubs of senior status are controlled by the Northern Federation, which has two representatives on the national board, the Australian Soccer Federation.

At present, the Coalfields area is without a playing member in the Philips National League.

What the future holds in this respect is unknown. Strong sponsorship alone could bring this about. The future will alone tell !!!

CLUB HISTORIES

WESTON

It was late in 1906, when the Hetton Coal Mining complex (Newcastle) sent a party of workmen to develop the site at Hebburn Colliery near Weston.

Among this group were quite a number of soccer enthusiasts from the Adamstown area. One, Ed Bartley, a former Rosebud official, and one of five brothers who all wore with distinction the Rosebud colours, persuaded a group to form a soccer club. It was rather an unofficial sort of meeting.

At this stage, the Rosebuds were a divided club, so Bartley knew he could muster a few discontents to strengthen his Weston team. Bartley submitted an application to the N.D.B.F.A. for a senior and 2nd Junior grade teams. On his application he submitted the following details —

1. *Name of club* — Weston Advance.
2. *Colours* — Black with red hoops.
3. *Ground* — Weston Cricket Ground.
4. *Secretary* — Ed Bartley.
5. *Players Registered* —

Senior team: A. Elliott, A. Bailey, A. Bartley, A. Ward, A. Sneddon, Jack Sneddon, Jas Sneddon, A. Rae, E. Bartley, F. Bartley, J. Kemp, M. Cook, D. Roach.

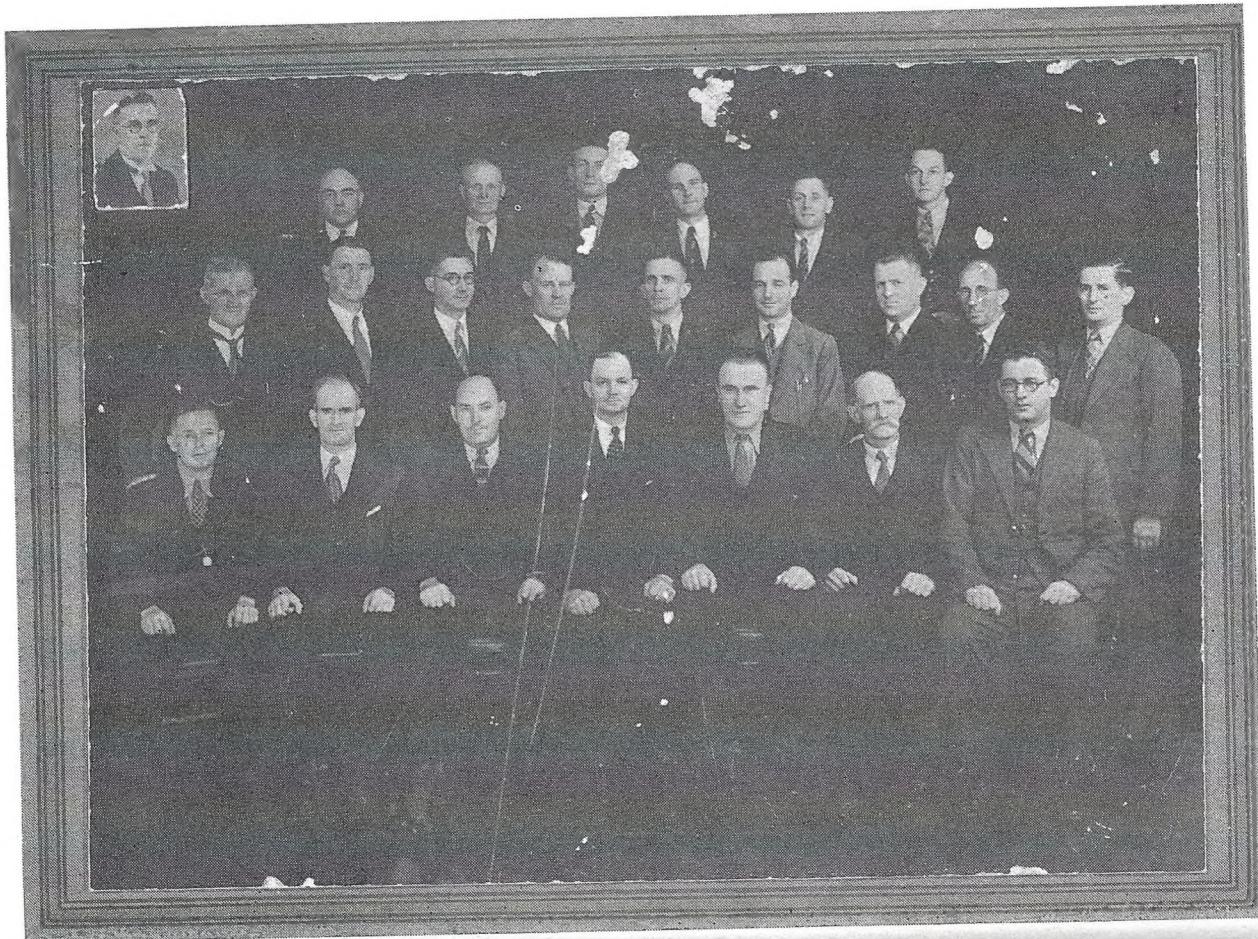
2nd Juniors: J. Cook, W. Dodd, D. Fraser, H. Kembrey, W. J. Kembrey, J. Freeburn, W. Scott, J. Gemmell, C. Masters, M. Ramsay, W. McDonald, W. Jarvie, R. Truscott, T. Wardrop, C. French, G. Turnbull, J. Robinson, J. Oglethorpe, W. Sneddon, W. Ashman, W. Davidson.

The senior grade only attracted three entries, Rosebuds, Royal Arthur, Weston.

For the Ellis Cup, only two entries were received — Weston and Royal Arthur (Broadmeadow).

The association decided that three matches be played — one on each home ground and the third on a neutral ground.

The first tie, played at Weston, ended in a 1 all draw and over 500 people welcomed the new sport. Ashman scored Weston's goal.





ABOVE: English Amateurs at Cessnock, 1937. Author (Sid Grant) introducing Mayor Horn to visitors — H. Robbins (captain).

PAGE 10 — N.S.W. State Soccer League, Officials, Councillors and Club Representatives — 1934

Reading from left to right —

Back Row: W. Stevenson (Cessnock), T. Thompson (Balgownie-Corrimbal), C. J. Britt (West Wallsend), W. McDonald (Woonona-Bulli), J. Hodgson (Kurri Kurri), H. Denley (Granville) — Inset: H. G. Read (Sydney Councillor).

Middle Row: A. Thompson (Gladesville-Ryde), T. Hastie (Aberdare), F. Harvey (Waratah-Mayfield), F. C. Daniels (Adamstown and Hon. Aud.), T. Lovett (Wallsend), W. J. Douglas (Metters), F. R. Druery (Hon. Aud.), A. Alfred (St. George), J. Dailly (Annandale-Leichhardt).

Front Row: J. Mather (Weston), T. Crawford (South Maitland Councillor), S. Stone (Hon. Treasurer), W. Beaney (President), W. N. Rushton (Secretary), J. Molloy (South Coast Councillor), S. J. Grant (Newcastle Councillor).

In the second clash at Broadmeadow, the scores were level at 2 all with five minutes left to play. The locals scored again but uproar resulted as neutrals argued that the ball had missed the Weston upright, to be kicked back into play by a spectator and snapped up by a Broadmeadow player and kicked into net. Pandemonium broke out and Weston left the field in protest.

The association conducted an inquiry and refused Weston's demand for a replay. Their scorers were A. Rae and D. Roach. The Weston club then withdrew from the series.

The club had grown in depth as a strong 3rd grade team comprising H. Jewell, W. Hailstone, G. Turnbull, T. Elliott, D. Kembrey, G. Embleton, R. Dixon, E. France, J. Burt, E. Davis, M. Collins, W. James, John Wardrop and Alec Gemmell played a series of fruitful friendlies against Pelaw Main, Kurri Royals, Heddon Greta, East Greta and Greta. The club officials showed ambition by entering the Gardiner Cup (Statewide) along with their old rivals, Broadmeadow.

Their first tie took them to Sydney where they put up a keen fight before bowing out to Pyrmont by 2 to 0.

This match was of some historical interest as it was the first time a Coalfield team had entered this Statewide series.

In 1908, Bartley disappeared from the scene and J. Robinson was elected secretary. For the first time a 3rd grade team entered the N.D.B.F.A.

Registered players were — R. Dixon, D. Gilpin, A. Jennings, J. Robinson, J. Jarvie, J. Wardrop, D. Kembrey, G. Turnbull, B. Hardesty, W. McDonald, T. Elliott, G. Embleton, W. Jarvie, G. Lynch, H. Kembrey, J. Williams, J. McCabe, D. Carney, Geo. Muir.

Here research by Weston's former president, Mr. Alan Lamb, makes a worthy contribution to this club's history.

The club was made a local one and a meeting was held in Mrs. Hales' Cafe in Aberdare Street, Weston, attracting over 25 enthusiasts. A civic identity, Mr. S. R. Phillips, chaired the first four meetings as it was made clear that the town needed a soccer club. A former Adamstown official, Mr. Peter Finlayson, also gave valuable advice.

Season 1909 was an uneventful one for Weston but the club co-operated with other Coalfield clubs to stage the West Australia v Coalfield XI at Maitland in May. Weston's two representatives were A. McNaughton and W. Ashman.

The arrival in Weston of former English player, Bill Hindmarsh, proved a boon to the club. Colours were changed to black and white stripes with black knickers. The team re-entered the senior ranks and players registered were — Bondi Neal, A. Lavender, C. Cartwright, J. Bullawell, A. McNaughton, A. Cook, A. Jennings, J. O'Brien, J. Barnes, C. Burn and J. Jowett.

In 1911, the club played in the 3rd grade and the following players were used — Dixon, Jarvie, Hindmarsh, Jarvie, Bates, Smith, Sneddon, Logan, Harker, Crowley, Turnbull.

In 1912, Weston entered a strengthened 2nd grade series in which Merewether, West Wallsend, Killingworth and Weston staged a keen and prolonged battle for supremacy. In the semi-finals, Weston beat West Wallsend by 2 to 1, and Killingworth outed Merewether by 2 to 1.

In the final replay Weston beat Killingworth by 1 to 0, the important goal being netted by Ord, after a 3 all draw. Weston's eleven included — Smith, Jarvie, Hindmarsh, Williams, W. Sneddon, J. Sneddon, Smith, Bates, Keeling, Ord, Mather.

These last three games made soccer Weston's top sport and Hindmarsh and Mather were the season's stars. Great local enthusiasm marked Weston's progress in the 1913 second grade series, which contained 10 entrants. After a hectic campaign, Weston met Minmi in second semi-final and result, a scoreless draw. In replay, Weston outed their rivals by 2 to 0 — in the final played at Holmesville, Merewether took out the title by 2 to 1.

In semi-final, Weston's XI was Logan, Hindmarsh, Gilmour, Williams, Cameron, Mather, Sneddon, Kidd, Beverley, McNaughton, Tweedle — in the final, Bowie in goal, Stoker, Tickle replaced Logan, Beverley and Sneddon. Players J. Bates and B. Stephenson also were regulars.

In 1914, Weston entered both senior and second grade premiership. In the former, Weston won the flag on 10 points with Merewether on 9, West Wallsend 8, Cessnock 8 and Wallsend 3.

Big capture was Lambert, Ramage, Dave Clark, Dick Austen and Jim Bellamy. In the Ellis Cup, Weston 4 beat Minmi 3 after being 3 down at the interval. Rain fell unceasingly and Weston used correct tactics to snatch the winning goal in the 89th minute.

In the semi-final, Weston beat Wallsend by 3 to 0 but were beaten in the final 1 to 0 by Merewether.

Their final team comprised — H. Smith, J. Gilmour, A. Ramage, J. Snedden, R. Austen, J. Laird, J. Wardlaugh, D. Clarke, W. Lambert, W. Snedden, J. Bellamy.

Others who played in the series were J. Mather, J. Stoker, Kidd, Tweedle, Johnson.

Stoker and D. Clarke won interdistrict honours. In the Gardiner Cup series, Weston beat West Wallsend (3 to 1). Holroyd (2 to 0) but failed by 3 to 2 v Granville in the State semi-final. Scorers for Weston were D. Clarke and W. Lambert. Weston's XI — H. Smith, J. Gilmour, A. Ramage, R. Austen, J. Laird, J. Snedden, J. Wardlaugh, D. Clarke, W. Lambert, J. Stoker, J. Bellamy.

World War I saw many defections by enlistments in A.I.F. Weston entered 2nd Grade series so Lambert, Gilmour, Ramage, Clarke, Mather joined West Wallsend. Despite the loss of this outstanding talent, Weston created much local enthusiasm by taking out the 2nd Grade title by beating a much fancied rival, Adamstown, by 5 to 2. The "Geordies" fielded brilliant newcomers in Jack Avis, Bob Austen, Duxfield, Herb Bellamy.

Many oldtimers tell how this final victory rekindled enthusiasm in Weston during the trying war years. Their final eleven comprised — Bob Austen, Hindmarsh, J. Henry, Dick Austen, J. Snedden, Duxfield, Avis, H. Bellamy, W. Beverley, J. Veitch, J. Bellamy. Scorers in that final were J. Bellamy (2), Avis (2), Beverley (1).

War conditions altered competitions in 1916 and the "All Aged" was the top ranking series.

Weston entered two teams. "A" and "B", and after seven series Weston "B" topped on 13 points, Weston "A" on 11. Newcastle on 10 and Wallsend on 9 — which quartet qualified for semi-finals. In first semi-final, Weston "A" and Newcastle played 0 all draw but Weston won the replay by 2 to 0. In the second semi-final, Weston "B" outed Wallsend by 2 to 0.

What a sensation for the club — "A" v "B" in the final on the Homestead Ground. Gate was £78 at 6d. for males, ladies free. After 90 gruelling minutes, in which both contestants shared the honours — score *NIL ALL*. After the final whistle, referee J. Sanderson said, "I've never refereed a better game. Both sets of players gave of their best and the crowd cheered them on."

Teams were — "A": Herb Smith, Morgan, Campbell, Kell, Snedden, Duxfield, Clarke, Taylor, Johnson, Brunskill, Davis. "B" Wes Smith, Lambert, Henry, Taft, Hollingsworth, Dick Austen, Beverley, Gilbertson, R. Austen, McNaughton, Henry Tweddle — Avis was unavailable.

The replay was taken to Blackburn Oval to allow Newcastle fans to see these two great elevens in action. But nature deposed and the game was played under very wet conditions. It was a very overcast day and players had great difficulty in controlling the impish ball. Wes Smith was replaced in goal by Bob Austen and Jack Avis led the attack. It was well into the second half, when Avis netted the all important goal.

The All Aged idea was repeated in 1917 but Weston's two teams were differently labelled — Weston Albions (blue and white) and Weston Magpies (black and white).

With a competition of eight teams — a full series of 14 matches were completed. Weston Albions and West Wallsend were equal on the top with 20 points, Wallsend on 19 and Weston Magpies on 18.

By the luck of the draw, the two Weston teams were together in the second semi-final played at Abermain. Over 1,000 fans packed into the park where they had drama after drama — a riot — nearby mounted troopers called to clear the ground — final result 1 all draw.

Teams: *Magpies* — H. Smith, Campbell, Snedden, Kell, Shields, Duxfield, H. Bellamy, Barker, Corrigan, R. Tweddle, J. Bellamy.

Albions — R. Austen, Lambert, Hicks, D. Austen, Strange, Wake, McNaughton, Avis, Graham, J. Tweddle.

Scorers: Magpies 1 (J. Bellamy) v Albions 1 (McNaughton).

Fearing further trouble, the replay was taken to Blackburn Oval. When Albion won by 3 to 0 Taylor replaced Wake in the Albion team while Patterson and Lynch replaced Barker and Corrigan in the Magpies' eleven.

Scorers for Albion were J. Avis (2) and Tweddle (1).

A week later in the final on the same enclosure. Wallsend ran out winners by 2 to 0, both goals to Bert Manfield, who later became a leading Methodist Clergyman.

Albion XI — R. Austen, W. Lambert, J. Hicks, D. Austen, J. Strange, H. Hollingsworth, McNaughton, B. Taylor, J. Avis, L. Graham, W. Tweddle. During this season, eight Westonites gained inter-district honours. To aid coal production for the war effort, localised competitions were in full force in 1918.

Weston won the Hemmings Cup without suffering a loss, scoring 20 goals for and 5 against. But all eyes turned to the fight for the famous Gardiner Cup. Any two South Maitland All Aged teams were allowed to unite for this trophy so Weston United was the chosen name for the Homestead contenders. In first round, Weston 1 beat Wallsend 0 — protest was upheld and in replay a bitterly fought 1 all draw. In further replay, Weston ran out winners by 5 to 0.

In the Cup semi-final, Weston 3 beat Cessnock 1 and qualified to meet Balmain Kiora at Epping. The game drew a crowd of over 2,000 and the only goal was netted by Duxfield giving the Coalies their first Gardiner Cup.

Balmain lodged a series of protests which were all ruled out. When the Cup winners returned to Weston on the Sunday night, a huge crowd of 5,000 plus the local band gave them a right royal welcome.

However, the Gardiner Cup did not arrive with the team. It came later after the series of frivolous protests were rejected.

Weston's final team included — Bob Austen, Bill Lambert (Capt.), J. Henry, Dick Austen, H. Hollingsworth, J. Duxfield, Bill Beverley, Len Pugh, Jack Avis, Andy McNaughton, Jim Bellamy — only two Australian-born players. Andy McNaughton and Len Pugh.

The 1919 season was badly affected by the influenza epidemic and attendances at the Homestead were severely affected. However, Weston retained the Hemmings Cup by beating Cessnock in final by 2 to 1. Trouble marked the last 10 minutes of play. When Avis netted the winning goal, Cessnock appealed for "off-side". Arguments began and one Cessnock player was ordered off. The other Cessnock players left the field. Later the Cup was awarded to Weston and Cessnock reprimanded for its unsporting action. The club officials apologised.

In their quest to retain the Gardiner Cup, "The Geordies" went down gallantly. In sequence, Weston beat Balmain Caledonians (1 to 0), Canterbury (0 all) (9 to 0) in replay in semi-final 0 all v West Wallsend: beaten 3 to 0 in replay — forced to play second half with 10 players.

More settled conditions marked the 1920 season. Four young stars in Tommy Oliver, Keith Rodgers, Sam Hawke and Jim Logan were included in the first. Jack "Kewpie" Mather suffered a serious leg injury which ended his long and meritorious career with the club. Whilst in the A.I.F. abroad, he received an offer to join Aston Villa in 1918. Later, he became a State Director and a great worker and asset to the code. In 1936, he returned to North of England to Blyth to take over the family business. Later, he passed away in 1937 at Kenton near Newcastle-on-Tyne.

In the semi-final, Weston was knocked out by Wallsend (3 to 0). *Weston XI* — Cockburn, Endean, Oliver, Rodgers, Lambert, Creighton, Self, Taylor, Avis, Hawke, J. Bellamy.

In the Gardiner Cup semi-final, after playing a 2 all draw against the strong Balmain Fernleigh XI — Weston bowed out to the tune of 2 to 1. Jack Avis with 12 was the season's top scorer.

Before the curtain had fallen on the 1921 season, stark tragedy hit the Homestead club. Its captain and stalwart defender, Bill Lambert, was fatally injured in Hebburn Mine. Injured in a fall of coal, he fought for four days but died on the Saturday.

A special chapter on Weston's string of tragedies is told elsewhere. Again Avis with 12 goals was the club's leading scorer.

A clever young centre, "Crabbie" McCroarey joined the Homestead squad in 1922 along with Penman, Jock Martin, Geo. Avis, Richardson, Bates and Adams. Jack Avis missed many games through injury. The club's chief achievement was to qualify for Kerr Cup final v Wallsend, which they won rather easily by 5 to 1. *Weston's XI* was — R. Cockburn, T. Oliver, J. Penman, G. Avis, J. Martin, J. Bates, H. Adams, C. Richardson, J. McCroarey, J. Gilmour, J. Mather. Their life in the Gardiner Cup was brief — out in 1st round to Wallsend by 1 to 0. Scorers were Gilmour (17), McCroarey (15). In 1923, new signatures included Creighton, Liddle, Derricott, Lloyd, Rodgers, while Jack Avis, fit again, became the club's regular pivot.

Weston qualified for the semi-finals and after eliminating Wallsend by 1 to 0, went on to take the season's honours by a 3 to 2 win over Adamstown. Weston's final team included R. Austen, T. Oliver, J. Bates, A. Liddle, J. Avis, H. Bellamy, J. Gallagher, J. Gilmour, J. McCroarey, J. Grant, H. Adams.

Season's chief scorers were: J. McCroarey (20) and J. Gilmour (11). New faces on the Homestead turf in 1924 included Jim Farrey, J. Wigham, E. Tate, J. Mathieson and G. Grant. Success this season was very limited. In the Kerr Cup semi-final, Weston were outed by Adamstown by 4 to 0 while West Wallsend by 3 to 0 ended their Gardiner Cup quest. Goal scoring revealed McCroarey at the top with 17 goals.

Season 1925 saw the arrival at Weston of Jacky Manion from nearby Abermain. A speedy attacker, Manion often gave a classical demonstration of sheer brilliance. He soon became a favourite on all Northern grounds.

The results were only ordinary yet the team managed to make the Kerr Cup final, when it was soundly thrashed by Adamstown by 9 to 2. Their eleven on that day comprised R. Austen, J. Grant, J. Maloney, Liddle, J. Avis, R. McDonald, Tate, Richardson, McCroarey, Manion, Stroker — as many rabid club loyalists remarked, "a day to forget!"

The club lost the Stevenson Cup final by 5 to 2 to Cessnock. The same opposition ended their Gardiner Cup run by 2 to 1. Chief goal-scorers were McCroarey (19) and J. Manion (13).

In 1926, improved goalscoring results by Manion (20), McCroarey (17). W. Avis (11), added strength to the Geordies' challenge for honours.

When Neath withdrew, Weston received the services of Henwood, Purcell and Drinkwater. While a volatile junior, Jimmy McNabb wore the club's colours for the first time. Despite two brilliant goals by Manion, Weston was ko'ed by Adamstown by 5 to 2 in Kerr Cup semi-final. It is worthy to note that the club's reserve eleven beat Pelaw Main by 4 to 3 in final. Winning team comprised Turner, Butler, Smith, Rogerson, E. Williams, Patterson, H. Bellamy, Tate, Bryce, Williams, Marriott.

For 1927, there were many changes in the Homestead staff. Bob Austen went to Cessnock, Farrey to Kurri, Drinkwater to Aberdare, while McCroarey's appearances were limited due to a knee injury. Among new arrivals were Charlie Thompson, T. McNabb, R. Gibson, Blane and the Williams brothers "Dummy" and Ellis.

The early exit from the Gardiner Cup by Cessnock rocked the confidence of the team. Manion had a highly successful season with 32 goals with "Dummy" Williams on 15. With the advent of the

State League, Weston's recruitment included W. Victor, E. Mitchell, W. Weir, Sid Masters, Doyle, Jim Kemp, along with old stalwarts in Manion, McNabb, Charlie Thompson, McCroarey, R. Gibson.

Weston did well in the inaugural State Cup by qualifying for the final, in which tie it went down to Aberdare. Its eleven included: S. Tredennick, W. Victor, J. McNabb, J. McCroarey, C. Thompson, E. Mitchell, E. Tate, W. Weir, J. Manion, R. Gibson, S. Masters. Chief goalscorers were Manion (35), McCroarey (12), Manion taking out the honour for the State. Eight of his tally were scored in State Cup ties. For the 1929 campaign, Weston sought reinforcements and Muir (West Wallsend), H. Biggers (Cessnock), H. Walters (Cardiff), W. Whitelaw (Cessnock), were signed.

In the goalscoring art, there was a big improvement despite an injury to Manion. "Dummy" Williams topped the list with 45 (club record), H. Muir (21), Jim Kemp (20).

A bold bid was made in 1930 and Osborne (Wallsend), Paddocks (Wallsend), W. Walker (Wallsend) were roped in. The season was highly successful without any honours and reflected great credit on the club's ex-champion, Jack Avis, who was now secretary. A 3 to 2 reverse by Adamstown at Hobart Park blasted their State Cup hopes. Chief goalscorers were J. Williams (42), J. Kemp (14), H. Biggers (12) and J. Manion (11). McNabb and Osborne won places in the state team which played Queensland in Brisbane.

Better training facilities were adopted in 1931 when divisional leagues were again played during the economic recession.

Weston won the Northern title and went to Sydney to beat Annandale by 4 to 2 in the State final. A 6 to 4 defeat by Cessnock at Cessnock in the State Cup first round was a severe blow for the "Geordies" who at half-time led by 4 to 0.

Goalscorers for the season were J. Williams (20), J. Manion (11); Weston's XI in the final v Annandale was — J. McNabb, Whitelaw, Harris, C. Thompson, J. Kemp, W. Victor, Jim Wilkinson, J. Williams, J. Manion, E. Kemp, W. Walker.

Probably the finding of the pint-sized winger, "Sketa" Wilkinson was outstanding. T. Harris came from Bellbird while Jimmy McNabb, due to a leg injury, became the team's regular goalie — and what a crowd-pleaser "fighting" Jim became. Because of his reflexes and his icy nerves, he became known as "King of the Penalty Area". Weston won the Stevenson Cup with a 5 to 4 win over near rivals, Cessnock.

The Northern title in 1932 was a real cliff-hanger. Wallsend won on 19 points with Weston, Cessnock and West Wallsend grouped together on 18 points.

In the State Cup final at Wallsend, Weston ran riot to humble Adamstown to the tune of 8 to 1. Winning eleven comprised McNabb,

Whitelaw, Harris, Thompson, J. Kemp, Victor, Wilkinson, Teece, Williams, Biggers, Leddon. In the Stevenson Cup final, Weston easily accounted for Aberdare by 5 to 1. Goalscorers were Jim Williams (24), A. Teece (15), J. Manion (10).

Two new arrivals for 1933 were Tom Shakespeare (Aberdare) and J. Drinkwater. Weston's Cup record was superior to its league effort. After crushing West Wallsend in State Cup by 8 to 0, it gave a feeble effort versus Cessnock to go down by 2 to 1 on the Homestead.

However, Weston retained the Stevenson Cup by beating Aberdare by 2 to 0. This saw the retirement of international, Jacky Manion, one of the all-time "greats" for Weston.

Goalscorers were — J. Williams (21), A. Teece (14), H. Biggers (13).

Wise counsel prevailed at the Homestead where president, Billy Williams, and secretary, Jack Avis, proved clever leaders in choosing future stars.

This continued in season 1934 and new recruits included Jack Drinkwater and Aub Perris from local junior ranks. The avenue for future success was well founded for in the next decade, the "Geordies" built up an amazing series of brilliant successes. In 1934, a total of 111 goals were netted in the season's activities — J. Williams (26), J. Kemp (19), J. Wilkinson (17), A. Teece (12), A. Perris (10). In the State Cup, they proved invincible, crushing Aberdare (3 to 0), Granville (4 to 0) and Adamstown 5 to 1 in the final. During this effort, one must mention its five ties versus near neighbours, Kurri Kurri — 2 all — 1 all — 2 all — 2 all — then 5 to 3 in Weston's favour — in all 630 minutes to settle the issue. Team in the final triumph was — McNabb, Harris, Drinkwater, Shakespeare, McCroarey, E. Kemp, A. Teece, J. Wilkinson, J. Williams, J. Kemp, Perris.

For 1935, a clever forward, Rex Stevenson, was signed from Cessnock. In the league race, the team finished 6th in 16 teams set-up — its early exit from State Cup was softened by a 4 to 0 win over Kurri in the Stevenson Cup final.

Goalscorers for the season were A. Perris (18), J. Kemp (17), J. Wilkinson (15), J. Williams (14).

Next year, 1936, became Weston's "marvellous season" as the Geordies took out the season's double against powerful opposition from the Sydney area. In a 22 league programme, Weston topped the premiership on 39 points from Adamstown (36), Metters (34), and Goodyear (31). In the Sheahan Cup semi-finals, Weston ousted Metters by 3 to 2 and Goodyear slammed Adamstown by 5 to 1.

It was a battle royal before the final was decided — in first clash, 1 all, but in the final replay, Weston showed its class by win-

ning by 2 to nil. Weston's XI was unchanged for these two hectic tussles and comprised McNabb, Drinkwater, Harris, Shakespeare, Harden, E. Kemp, Wilkinson, McCroarey, Stevenson, J. Kemp, J. Leddon.

But that was not all — Weston beat Cessnock (7 to 1), St. George (6 to 0) after a scoreless draw, Adamstown (1 to 0), to qualify to meet the mighty Metters in Cup final.

In a tough 90 minutes classic at Clyde Oval, Granville, the Coalies lasted the distance until a 3 to 2 win over Metters, whose team included no fewer than ten representative stars. The hero that day was the mighty midget, "Sketa" Wilkinson, who bagged two glorious goals — a superb exhibition of wing forward play.

Weston's final team included — McNabb, Drinkwater, Harris, Shakespeare, Harden, E. Kemp, Wilkinson, McCroarey, Stevenson, J. Kemp, Leddons.

The club honoured the season's triple success with a Victory Banquet, at which over 120 former Weston stars assembled to pay tribute to the successful players. Goalscorers were Stevenson (28), J. Kemp (15), J. Wilkinson (13), J. Williams (12), J. McCroarey (11), E. Kemp (11). The 1937 season saw the departure of a stalwart, Jim "Dummy" Williams, who scored 210 goals for Weston in the senior ranks.

Only new signature was J. Marsden who came from Waratah-Mayfield. Weston finished second to Goodyear in the league race.

Weston did well in the Cup series to qualify to meet Wallsend in the final. This game was one of the last played on Hobart Park. Wallsend won by 3 to 1. Weston's eleven comprised: McNabb, Drinkwater, Harris, Shakespeare, Harden, E. Kemp, J. Wilkinson, J. McCroarey, J. Marsden, J. Kemp, J. Leddon.

Goalscorers were — J. Kemp (22), J. Leddon (19), J. Marsden (19), J. Wilkinson (19), J. McCroarey (13), R. Stevenson (10).

The only success in 1938 was a 9 to 4 win in the Stevenson Cup final against Cessnock. Goalie McNabb had a lean season. New players included G. Price, C. Wood, A. Beverley, D. Wiseman and Alby Jenkins.

In 1939, Alec Cameron, R. Paddocks, Ray Simons joined Weston and the club had a very successful season.

In the Statewide league, Weston finished level on 30 points with Metters to qualify for semi-finals. In the State Cup, Weston beat Wallsend by 1 to 0 in semi-final, but had to play Goodyear twice to decide the final. The Arlington clash ended in a 2 all draw, but Weston prevailed in replay at Wallsend by 3 to 1. Weston's eleven was unchanged for both games. It read — McNabb, Drinkwater, Harris, Shakespeare, Paddocks, E. Kemp, A. Cameron, J. Wilkinson, R. Simons, J. Kemp, J. Leddon.

Scorers for the season were: J. Leddon (15), J. Kemp (14), R. Simons (11), J. Wilkinson (11).

In the Stevenson Cup final, Cessnock beat Weston by 4 to 3 at Weston.

After enjoying a period of high success, bad times were hovering around the Homestead.

In 1940, saw many stalwarts disappear from the scene. McNabb did not complete the season. Harden, Harris, Walker, McCroarey, Marsden retired. The reformed team struggled on manfully, but failed to enter the premiership semi-finals. In the Cup, it went down to Adamstown to the tune of 6 to 1. Their eleven was — M. Young, Drinkwater, E. Kemp, Shakespeare, Paddocks, Hamilton, Jim Wilkinson, K. Leddon, A. Jenkins, J. Kemp, J. Leddon. Alby Jenkins scored 24 goals during the season.

Bill Lonergan joined the club for the 1941 season, but little was achieved.

In all, 27 players were tried, but at no time did the side show confidence. The same comments marked the 1942 campaign. In the Cup, victories over Lake Macquarie (3 to 2) ended in a big defeat by 7 to 5 by West Wallsend. Lonergan went off to Granville after four matches and over 34 players were tried without much success.

Then the advent of a breakaway State League in 1943 saw Weston, like all other Coalfields clubs, out in the cold. Shakespeare, J. Kemp, J. Leddon, Alby Jenkins, Drinkwater and Paddocks did not return. Only "Sketa" Wilkinson and Ern Kemp remained. Local recruits included Humble, Ron Wilkinson, K. Bellamy, A. Maxwell, J. Atkinson, W. Langlands, A. Hindmarsh. Humble on 16 was the only double-figure scorer.

The future for the famous club was bleak to say the least. Like all champion clubs, time generally brings bad days, financial problems and relegation.

In 1944-45, Weston struggled in an inferior Northern League; 1946 in 2nd Division, while there followed several seasons of total shutdown. Even Abermain Park was their home venue without success.

Seasons 1953-1961 formed a period of depression and negative results. In 1963 Weston secured ninth place in a 10 team 2nd Division, but the following season there were signs of a recovery with 16 wins and one loss. In the semi-final, Weston beat Belmont-Swansea by 3 to 1 and beat Dudley by 2 to 1 in the 2nd Division final. Its final eleven comprised: W. Mahoney, C. Allanson, T. Harper, B. Davies, E. Kemp Jnr., R. Morris, J. Sneddon, N. Jackson, J. Drinkwater, M. Hamilton, G. Heaney.

That success won promotion back to 1st Division and a new era of triumph was well under way.

The 1964 season was a hard road back. Best success was in the Under 21 years grade where Weston and Wallsend topped the table on 30 points each. In that young group under care of J. Drinkwater, the following players showed great promise: C. Jurd, R. Morris, R. Mort, A. McDonald, M. Vernon, N. Clifton, B. Oliver, C. Rae, R. Hindmarsh, G. McSweeney.

In the senior ranks, Gary Heaney (12), N. Jackson (12), Ian Thompson (10) were top scorers, while Max Hamilton, Bill Mahoney, Noel Maddison, B. Davies, E. Kemp Jnr., R. Hines, K. Urwin were regulars.

For the 1966 season, new recruits included J. Kidd, J. Sheen, A. Lambkin, T. Harper. The club finished in tenth position out of 12 and was eliminated in the first round of the Craven A Cup by Mayfield.

A similar disappointing return came in 1967, but with a re-organised committee headed by a local businessman, Mr. Alan Lamb, the whole concept was altered in 1968.

Lamb realised that there was a dearth of talent among local juniors so he persuaded the club to request player, Ian Thompson to scout overseas for new recruits. The first of this contingent arrived for the 1968 season. Locals enrolled were J. Smith (goalie), A. McDonald, J. Power, T. Barr, Tom Sneddon, G. Norgard and W. Barker. The new policy paid dividends as Weston qualified for the premiership semi-final for first time in a decade. Despite a terrific effort, it went down to Belmont-Swansea by 3 to 2. Weston's eleven comprised: Smith, McDonald, T. Barr, Lambkin, J. Taylor, J. Power, W. Barker, T. Sneddon, G. Norgard, J. Sloan, G. Heaney.

Goalscorers were G. Heaney (12), J. Sloan (10). The recruitment overseas increased and newcomers included Tom Brown, Tod Pelc, Willie Barker, Jim Daly in 1968 — later Roy Johnson and Stefan Kamasz — then four from Scotland in Alan Cooper, Jim Critchley, Kerr McLerie, Tom Kilpatrick — Stuart Kamasz, Johnny Bond and in 1971 Ken Worden from Preston North End.

Coaches in this period were Jim McBride 1967-68-69 then Mark Lucchesi, both of whom played a vital part in the rehabilitation of the old club.

In the 1969 semi-final, Weston beat Adamstown by 3 to 2 after a scoreless draw at the first meeting. In the Preliminary Final, Weston proved too solid for Hamilton Azzurri by 3 to 0, but in the Grand Final, Newcastle Australs ended their quest by 3 to 2. Weston's XI in the last event comprised: J. Smith, A. McDonald, A. Lampkin, T. Sneddon, R. Paul, K. McLerie, J. Power, T. Brown, St. Kamasz, W. Barker, G. Heaney. Player Roy Johnson missed this vital match due to injury. Chief goalscorers were G. Heaney (11), Stew Kamasz (11), W. Barker (10). Weston's best result in 1970 was in the Ampol

Cup, where it finished in fourth place after a 3 to 1 defeat by Maitland in the second semi-final. Top scorers were J. Critchley, J. Power and J. Sloan all on 10 goals. More intensive coaching brought a rich reward in 1971 for Weston, now known as "The Bears", topped the points table. In the Grand Final at Macquarie Field, Weston ran out winners against Wallsend by 5 to 0 — the winning team included no fewer than eight imports — F. Woods, R. Johnson, K. McLerie, T. Sneddon, J. Taylor, J. Bond, A. Cooper, Stew Kamasz, J. Sloan, Stefen Kamasz, K. Worden.

Goalscorers were J. Sloan (23), K. Worden (11), Stef Kamasz (10).

Weston's success continued into 1972 when it again topped the premiership. A new player, W. Halverson impressed in his first season with the club. In the Grand Final, the "Bears" pipped Toronto-A by 3 to 0. The winning team comprised: Wood, Johnson, Halverson, Sneddon, Davies, McLerie, Cooper, Bond, Sloan, Stef Kamasz, Worden.

Jim Sloan was top scorer on 29, showing a consistency that won him much deserved praise. In the Ampol Cup, Weston were eliminated by New Lambton by 3 to 0 after a 1 all draw — B. Duma, P. Irving and R. Lloyd were new recruits for the 1973 campaign. Once again the "Bears" took out the Northern title netting 83 goals to 33. In the Grand Final Weston proved too powerful for Adamstown to win by 4 to 1 — Duma netting a brilliant hat-trick. Weston's team: F. Wood, R. Johnson, W. Halverson, T. Sneddon, K. McLerie, Stef Kamasz, R. Lloyd, A. Cooper, B. Duma, P. Irving, K. Worden. The club also captured the Ampol Cup by beating West Wallsend by 2 to 0 in the final. In this game Lloyd was replaced by Stew Kamasz. In the match against Hitachi (Japan), Weston gained seven places in the winning team, namely, Woods, Johnson, Sneddon, Cooper, Irving, Duma and Worden — a fine achievement. Another success came Weston's way in 1974. New players included T. Dobson, S. Payne, A. McCabe, Stoker and J. K. Turnbull and J. W. Turnbull. Left winger, Ken Worden left for Tasmania.

Weston finished in second berth to New Lambton in the seniors, but their reserves had an 11-point margin in that grade.

In the senior semi-final, Weston were defeated by New Lambton by 2 to 1 after a 1 all draw in the first clash.

In the Grand Final, Weston beat Adamstown by 3 to 2 in a real cliff-hanger. Weston's team: Goldsmith, Johnson, Halverson, Sneddon, Stoker, McCabe, Lloyd, Cooper, Dobson, Irving, J. K. Turnbull replacement K. McLerie. In the goalscoring, Dobson (14), G. Payne (14), P. Irving (14) were tops.

Kerr McLerie left to coach Cessnock early in 1975. Newcomers to the club were K. Riley, K. Strong, D. Kamasz, Freeburn, Koosman,

while Lloyd again acted as playing coach. In a hard tussle, Weston finished second to Adamstown. It took two meetings to decide the Grand Final. A 1 all draw was followed by a 2 to 1 win for Adamstown. In the replay, Weston fielded Wood, Koosman, Halverson, Sneddon, Johnson, Riley, Lloyd, Cooper, Dobson, Bond, John Turnbull. In the first match, Freebairn was played in lieu of Koosman. However, the "Bears" won the Ampol Cup by 5 to 4 against Adamstown — Weston's winning eleven: Wood, Freebairn, Halverson, Sneddon, Koosman, McCabe, Lloyd, Cooper, Dobson, Sloan, Strong.

Goalscorers for the season were Dobson (15), John Turnbull (13).

The Reserve Graders had a successful season, losing in the Grand Final to Wallsend by 1 to 0. Team included Goldsmith, Peters, N. Lloyd, Cresswell, Stoker, Jack Turnbull, Bobbins, Payne, D. Kamasz, Falk, Pelc, McCabe.

New faces in 1976 were M. Davies, G. Samuels, O. Bellamy and an overseas pivot, D. Thompson from Leeds.

The seniors finished in fourth position but were out in first semi-final by Cardiff by 3 to 1. Jack Turnbull 17, John Turnbull 11 were the chief scorers.

Only newcomers for 1977 were G. King from Cessnock and J. E. Turnbull ex-West Wallsend. With Max Luccessi back as coach, an "all-out" effort was staged. Success followed success and much considered opinion rated 1977 as the "greatest season ever" in the history of the club.

The whole town and nearby areas supported the club in no uncertain manner. Under President John "Junior" Beattie, Secretary Wayne Hawley, Treasurer Col Forster, and Team Manager, Max Lomas, Weston scooped the pool. Firstly, Weston took out the "B.P." Cup by beating Wallsend by 3 to 2 in the final. Winners included O. Bellamy, Davies, Johnson, Sneddon, Thompson, Stoker, King, McCabe, J. B. Turnbull, J. T. Turnbull, J. E. Turnbull.

After topping the premiership ladder on 34 points to Edgeworth's 32, the "Bears" crashed in the semi-finals to Edgeworth by 3 to 1.

Much depended on the Grand Final when these two grand elevens met in the Crystal Palace area. Over 10,000 packed the ground for this tie.

After a pulsating clash, in which both teams shared honours, Weston's second half replacement, Scot Allen, hit the winning goal. Weston's eleven — O. Bellamy, R. Johnson, D. Thompson, T. Sneddon, M. Davies, D. King, D. Stoker (rep. W. Allen), T. McCabe, J. B. Turnbull, J. T. Turnbull, J. J. Turnbull.

For the first time in its history, the "Bears" took out the Championship Shield with 221 points to Adamstown's 213.

In such a triumphant season, the scorers were J. B. Turnbull (22), J. J. Turnbull (16), J. T. Turnbull (12). To mark the occasion, the club staged a Victory Presentation Night in the Weston Workers' Club, when over 350 folk met to honour the players and officials who had brought such an array of sporting honours to the little mining town of Weston.

For 1978, D. Thompson was the playing coach, and the "Bears" struggled on for more honours. The "Bears" made a valiant effort to retain the crown from Minor Premiers, Edgeworth.

They made an uneventful early campaign, but rallied with traditional pluck to go down in the Grand Final to Edgeworth.

Chief goalscorers were C. Harper (13), J. B. Turnbull (12), J. J. Turnbull (9), J. T. Turnbull (9).

There was compensation when the "Bears" lost the Grand Final against Highfields Azzurri by 3 to 2 in 1979. The reserves showed grand form to beat Wallsend in Reserves Grand Final on penalties.

Weston's reserves figures were — played 22; won 16; drawn 3; lost 3. Goals for 43; goals against 15; points 35.

CESSNOCK

On several occasions during the last 20 years, doubt has been expressed about the birth of soccer in Cessnock.

To get down to the basic truths, the writer began a detailed research including personal interviews with old Bob Harden (ex-West Wallsend skipper), Tom Rennix, "Tup" Rennex, Alf Brunskill, Alec Renfrew and others.

But the truth of this problem came out when a former Secretary of the N.D.B.F.A., Mr. George Reay of Dudley, presented me with both the official minute-book and registrar of players book for the period 1902-1911.

This indicated clearly that soccer started in Cessnock in April, 1907. A group of 15 sportsmen met on a vacant allotment just south of the Cessnock Railway Station. Many of these enthusiasts were recent arrivals from Minmi, West Wallsend, Greta and Stockton. The Pate brothers, Bob and Wal, along with Andy Stewart, formed the first executive. Colours chosen were black shirt with green hoops. Name of club was registered as Cessnock Starlights. The first ground was a large vacant area near where the Aberdare Park was established 15 years later.

Full list of players was: J. Freeburn, R. Pate, N. Thompson, F. Mark, W. Willis, A. Stewart, W. Pate, J. Ward, O. Lane, G. Volger, S. Andrews, A. Howard, C. Henderson, P. Martin, W. Marsh, W. Hodgett, J. Jeffries.

The first match was between Minmi Squashers and the Starlights at Cessnock on 17th May, 1907 — won by Minmi by 3 to 1. The social side of the visit was a great success as within three months, over five of that Minmi eleven were back working in Cessnock. It is worth noting that the first certificated referee living in Cessnock was Geo. Newton, late of Lambton.

There was soon a demand for better soccer. Luckily the club affairs fell into the hands of former Minmi official, Tom Rennex. At the beginning of 1908, Rennex submitted a senior entry — Cessnock Mountaineers. Rennex in his address to the delegates, painted such a glowing picture of the code's progress, that first class status was gained. Within months, a strong combination was practising — including Bob Harden, H. Freeburn, W. Robertson, J. Valance, J. Chalmers, J. Cook, J. Johnston, W. Taylor, H. Barr, T. Hill, W. Oswald, F. Fleming, W. Priestley, A. Durne, J. Milne, W. Taylor.

The first senior match in Cessnock in May, 1908 was Adams-town Wanderers v Cessnock — result 2 all draw. A month later, Cessnock had a clever 3 to 1 win over Royal Arthurs — a team which included such well known players as Jack Doyle, "Brolgy" Elgey, Andy McNaughton, Bob Lidbury, Fred Jennings, Dave Russell Elgey, and J. Jones. The Cessnock's Second grade team included: J. Tait, J. Turnbull, T. Spowart, J. Harden, A. Blain, J. Wardrop, E. Callaghan, J. Ashman, J. Lewis, J. Stewart, P. Parker, G. Clark, W. Taylor and E. Sneddon. The round ball game had been successfully planted at the western end of the Coalfields, to where hundreds of workers flocked for permanent work in the recently opened collieries.

In 1909, travelling difficulties saw Cessnock initiate a S. Maitland premiership with teams from Cessnock, Weston, Kurri and East Greta, with Cessnock taking out the honours. The players involved included Bob Harden, J. Freeburn, C. Callaghan, T. Russell, J. Ballard, R. Leckie, T. Spowart, T. Jeffreys, A. Fauld, A. Blain, T. Wardrop, J. Wardrop, J. Marshall, J. Williams. Other honours were the inclusion of four players, Bob Harden, W. Howe, T. Wardrop and A. Corrigan in the first ever S. Maitland representative eleven versus West Australia in Maitland.

In 1911, there was renewed enthusiasm and it was a great achievement for Cessnock to beat Merewether in the Ellis Cup final by 2 to 1. The players were — T. Spowart, G. Rennex, J. Harden, A. Walker, J. Gaul, A. Renfrew, R. Harden, C. Waite, W. Faulds, J. Brown, W. Clayton, Andy Renfrew, J. Clarke.

The season 1912 saw Cessnock again retain the coveted Ellis Cup by beating West Wallsend in final replay by 1 to 0 after 1 all draw at their first meeting. T. Rennex converted a penalty to decide the issue. The club colours were changed to black and gold — a suggestion adopted after letter from a keen supporter of Wolverhampton Wanderers and a Scot from Aberdeen.

The arrival in Cessnock of two former Scottish juniors, brothers Jimmy and Wal Thomson, were outstanding gains. Jimmy Thomson hailed from Ormiston Star's near Elphinstone. Jimmy Thomson soon became an outstanding back. He was on the point of signing professional forms for the famous Edinburgh's Hearts of Midlothian when he decided to migrate to Australia with his brother Wal, a very clever inside-forward. Cessnock eleven in final included T. Spowart, G. Rennex, J. Thomson, A. Walker, J. Gaul, A. Renfrew, C. Waite, W. Thomson, W. Faulds, J. Brown, H. Clayton.

In 1913, Jimmy Thomson captained a Newcastle XI v Queensland at Newcastle, winning by 2 to 1 — J. Clarke was Cessnock's other representative. Later in the season, a Combined Northern XI was chosen to tour Queensland — four Cessnock players won inclusion: Jimmy Thomson (Capt.), R. Elgey, W. Brown, Wal Thomson.

Cessnock third grade lost the final to Minmi by 2 to 1.

Cessnock entered the Gardiner Cup for first time and after a 2 all draw at Cessnock went out by 1 to 0 in replay in Sydney against Balmain Gladstones.

Cessnock's first eleven in a Gardiner Cup tie comprised: R. Elgey, J. Thomson (Capt.), A. Rennex, W. Brown, J. Clarke, J. Marshall, Wal Thomson, W. McBlane, J. Brown, H. Clayton, A. Renfrew.

In replay, Stevenson and Turner replaced the injured J. Brown and H. Clayton. In the inter-district game Newcastle v Sydney in Sydney, J. Thomson and J. Clarke won caps. World War I upset the usual competitions, but J. Thomson, J. Laird won inter-district honours again. However, Cessnock went down to Merewether by 2 to 1 for the Kerr Cup or premiership final.

Cessnock XI for that game was: Harold, Ross, G. Rennix, Anderson, Laird, J. Thomson, Renfrew, Colquohan, Hancock, Davis, J. Toweth.

At the annual meeting early in 1917, the club officials reported that 33 club players had joined the Services. With a shortage of senior players Cessnock entered the "All Aged" series.

The focus in this era turned towards Weston where the Homestead ground became the centre for soccer activity. In 1918, two Cessnock teams entered the All Aged S. Maitland series, but Weston took out the Heming Cup by 2 to 1 against Cessnock "B".

Important was the Cessnock Under-18 years team which finished on top of the series, but was knocked out by Kurri in the semi-final. The players were: Rennex, Player, Diver, G. Williams, Gibson, Stewart, Waite, Brown, Fairhall, Elliott, Hafey, Roe, Stevenson, Hodge, Hedley.

During this season, J. Thomson, Brunskill, A. Renfrew, Hancock, Davis won places in the district eleven. In the 1919 Heming Cup

final, Cessnock met Weston and led by 1 to 0 at half-time. However, there were dramatic scenes in second half. Weston equalised and in the 72nd minute Avis scored the winning goal — Cessnock protested "off-side" and left the field.

At a special meeting the Cup was awarded to Weston and Cessnock reprimanded for its unsporting action.

Both linesmen agreed with referee's decision.

Cessnock officials tendered an apology.

Top scorers during season were: G. Hancock (8), A. Renfrew (8), J. Auld (7), J. Brunskill (5).

Players used during season included: W. Smith, G. Rennex, L. Muir, A. Clarke, J. Strong, W. Durie, A. Renfrew, J. Brunskill, J. Auld, G. Hancock, A. Colquohan, Alex Renfrew.

The administration of the club was strengthened and more up-to-date methods of training were adopted. "Tup" Rennex was the power behind the uplift.

A strong eleven was recruited, and the club won a major honour when it won the Nurse Cup (South Coast K.O. Championship). Players included G. Wells, L. Muir, G. Rennex, G. Williams, T. Nixon, P. Lennard, R. Lennard, A. Rowe, G. Rowe, E. Williams, L. Brown, B. Endear, J. Strang, J. Clarke, A. Renfrew, J. Diver.

In the Gardiner Cup, Cessnock put up a very meritorious effort with the following results — 0 all v West Wallsend, in replay 5 to 2 win; lost 3 to 5 v Annandale.

So 1920 was a very satisfactory season for the "Nocks". Further consolidation was gained in 1921.

In the Gardiner Cup, victories were recorded against Newcastle City (2 to 1) and Balgownie (2 to 1) before the "Nocks" were beaten by West Wallsend by 2 to 1 in the third round. In the Kerr Cup final, Cessnock lost to Wallsend by 2 to 0 — the losing team included: Sneddon, G. Williams, G. Carmichael, R. Lennard, G. Rennix, W. Durie, G. Rowe, L. Brown, P. Lennard, J. Strange, E. Williams — other players used were G. Skipton, R. Williams, G. Wells, L. Muir. Top goalscorers were P. Lennard 21, J. Strange 12, L. Brown 10. In the Premiership semi-final, Cessnock beat Weston by 3 to 1 but lost the final to West Wallsend by 2 to 0. Cessnock's final team was: Sneddon, G. Williams, R. Harden, Durie, Rennex, R. Lennard, L. Brown, G. Rowe, J. Strange, P. Lennard, E. Williams.

The season 1922 saw the retirement as a player of "Tup" Rennix whose effort for Cessnock and Minmi made him one of the code's "greats". He made over 200 senior appearances and was crowned "the penalty King" for his conversion of "spot kicks". Rennix, however, continued to serve the club until the mid-thirties.

The season created increased attendances and wild enthusiasm was shown when Cessnock and Wallsend met thrice in the Ellis Cup semi-finals (0-0) and (0-0), before Cessnock won by 4 to 0.

Regular players were F. Jones, G. Williams, W. Durie, R. Lennard, J. Strange, G. Rowe, E. Williams, P. Lennard, E. Hodge, R. Harden, L. Brown, J. Auld, G. Hancock. Goalscorers were P. Lennard 17, A. Hancock 7, L. Brown 6.

Progress continued in 1923, when the homegate Cessnock 1 v Kurri 1 drew £125 — entrance 9d. with ladies and children free.

The players used were F. Jones, J. Hannah, A. Thomson, G. Williams, Durie, Lidbury, Rowe, E. Williams, P. Lennard, E. Lee, J. Mathieson, L. Brown, Maloney, McNaughton, E. Hodge, J. Sternbeck, McCort. Cessnock won the Kerr Cup final by downing Wallsend by 2 to 1 in a 90-minute thriller.

Cessnock's XI in the final comprised: Hannah, Lidbury, Williams, J. Wilson, Durie, Rowe, McNaughton, Brown, Hodge, Lennard, McCort.

Increased support was noted in 1923 when Cessnock finished level with Wallsend on 25 points, to share premiership honours. However, in the play-off, Wallsend won a closely contested match by 2 to 1. Cessnock's team was: W. Hannah, G. Williams, W. Thomson, J. Wilson, G. Slarks, D. Harden, E. Williams, P. Lennard, J. Murdoch, C. Williams, McNaughton.

Other players used during season included: G. Rowe, Durie, A. See, Hodge, McWilliams, R. Lennard, Hughes, A. Thomson.

Goalscorers of note were P. Lennard 16, D. Harden 14, C. Williams 10. The outstanding achievement in 1925 was Cessnock's appearance in the Gardiner Cup final.

During early rounds, "Nocks" beat St. George (4 to 0), Weston (2 to 1), West Wallsend (2 to 1), only to go down to Adamstown by 2 to 0 in the final.

Cessnock regained prestige by reversing scores in Ellis Cup final by beating Adamstown by 2 to 1.

Winning eleven: G. Bower, G. Williams, J. Rollo, G. Slarks, E. Hodge, G. Rowe, E. Williams, H. Otto, R. McNaughton, P. Lennard, D. Tonner.

Goalscorers during long season were: Tonner 14, P. Lennard 13, C. Williams 10, E. Hodge 7.

Other players used included M. Sternbeck, G. Turner, A. See, W. Stoker, W. Carroll, W. Thomson, A. Thomson, J. Losby.

In the Stevenson Cup final, Cessnock beat Weston by 5 to 2.

Success continued in 1926, when Cessnock beat West Wallsend by 1 to 0 in premiership final after beating Aberdare by 3 to 1 in

the semi-final. Goalscorers for the year were: P. Lennard 17, C. Williams 15, E. Hodge 10, R. McNaughton 10.

Cessnock XI — R. Austen, E. Hodge, T. Green, H. Otto, J. Taylor, J. Harden, C. Williams, P. Hogan, A. Park, R. McNaughton, J. Wilkinson. The team also won the Stevenson Cup by beating Weston 5 to 2 at Kurri.

Soccer reached its zenith as far as popularity was concerned, when Cessnock joined the new Statewide league in 1928. The aggregate crowd for season reached all-time record. In 10 home games, nine were won, one drawn and 35 goals scored against 7 conceded.

Cessnock won the inaugural championship, finishing four points clear of their nearest rival, Gladesville-Ryde on 28 points. Playing details were: R. Austen 23, E. Hodge 22, J. Taylor 21, C. Williams 21, P. Lennard 21, P. Johns 19, W. Gregory 19, T. Green 18, Jack Wilkinson 18, H. Otto 17, J. Harden 15, J. Donnelly 12, E. Odgers 11, W. Ross 6, J. Forgie 6, G. Wilkinson 2, S. Bowden 1, T. Odgers 1. Goalscorers were P. Johns 17, P. Lennard 15, C. Williams 13, J. Wilkinson 5, E. Odgers 4. Cessnock were recognised by all as "worthy State Champions". Successful as the 1928 season was, the next campaign proved even more rewarding, for the Coalfields stars won the "double" — league and State Cup.

In the league a ding-dong tussle with near neighbours Kurri developed, and at the end both rivals ended level on 41 points, but the "Nocks" won on goal averages.

Cessnock's home record was superb — played 13, won 13 — scoring 70 goals to 15.

In its Cup campaign, Cessnock beat Woonona (6 to 2), Aberdare (5 to 1), Granville (4 to 1) semi-final, and in the Cup final at Weston, it routed Wallsend by 5 to 2. Its winning eleven comprised: R. Austen, E. Hodge, C. Thompson, T. Green, J. Taylor, J. Harden, C. Williams, P. Lennard, P. Johns, N. Price, Jack Wilkinson.

Appearances were: E. Hodge 34, P. Lennard 34, J. Wilkinson 34, P. Johns 34, T. Green 32, C. Thompson 32, N. Price 31, R. Austen 30, J. Taylor 29, C. Williams 28, J. Harden 25, W. Weir 7, H. Otto 6, W. Gregory 4, H. Ashcroft 3, P. Horns 2, E. Williams 2, J. Donnelly 2, G. Brown 1, W. Blane 1, N. Carroll 1, H. Biggers 1, Roy Johns 1. Goalscorers were N. Price 39, P. Johns 36, P. Lennard 18, J. Wilkinson 15.

The recession in the coal trade affected Coalfields' sport. Many players sought employment in other areas.

Despite this, Cessnock finished third in league race and went down in 1930 Cup final against Adamstown by 2 to 0. Their team on that occasion was: Austen, Hodge, J. Evans, Green, Blane, Harden, Stevenson, Lennard, Price, P. Johns, Jackie Wilkinson.

Goalscorers for the season were: P. Johns 22, P. Lennard 20, N. Price 14, B. McLaren 11, J. Wilkinson 11. Players' appearances in a 30-match season were: Austen 30, P. Lennard 29, J. Evans 29, Green 29, Hodge 26, J. Harden 26, McLaren 22, J. Wilkinson 22, P. Johns 21, N. Price 19, R. Stevenson 19, W. Soutar 15, P. Harris 13, B. Blane 10, F. Garatty 5, C. Evans 4, Roy Johns 3, G. Slarks 2, J. Kiers 2, J. McWilliams 1, W. Gilmour 1, J. Peters 1, W. Weir 1. Interest in soccer began to wane with the return of divisional premierships.

Club prestige suffered by the action of the players walking off the field when scores were West Wallsend 3, Cessnock 2. This was to be regretted as in the previous round, Kurri and Cessnock had to play twice to enter the final four. At Kurri, a 2 all draw thrilled a 2,000 crowd and Cessnock's 3 to 0 win in replay attracted an even larger crowd.

Cessnock's leading scorers were: P. Lennard 11, H. Pringle 10, J. Wilkinson 8, N. Price 3.

Seasons 1932-1933 were rather uneventful, but for record sake, in 1932 Roy Johns 15, P. Lennard 11, were top scorers while Rex Stevenson (9) did best in 1933. In the State Cup final, Cessnock and St. George played a 3 all draw, but in replay, the dismissal of J. B. Evans proved too big a handicap and Saints won by 5 to 3.

Cessnock's final team was: R. Garrish, J. Evans, J. Wallace, J. Peters, P. Lennard, E. Callaghan, R. Stevenson, J. McWilliams, J. Marsden, J. Nelson, C. Evans.

Back to the Statewide series in 1934, Cessnock with a much younger team finished half-way down the ladder. Goalscorers were: J. Marsden 19, Cec Mowatt 19, R. Stevenson 13, E. Callaghan 10, S. Williams 10.

In 1935, Cessnock lost its first eight games to finish third from the bottom. It went out of the Cup in first round to Goodyear and Cec Mowatt only one to secure inter-district honours.

Seasons 1936 and 1937 returned little success. One of the club's greatest players, Perce Lennard "called it a day" after making 492 appearances with the club.

In 1938, the club finished 11th and younger players were recruited, including Gordon Thomson, Joe Kiers, Les Burnett, Theo Jurd and Joe Orr, Bill Lonergan, Jim Thomson.

Only success in 1939 was when Cessnock beat Weston by 4 to 3 to win the Stevenson Cup. Team included: W. Inglis, H. George, A. Thomson, H. Knott, J. Orr, J. Marshall, J. McBlane, W. Lonergan, D. Evans, G. Thomson, E. Callaghan.

Bill Lonergan gained inter-district honours on two occasions. The breakaway in 1943 saw all the Coalfields clubs omitted from the State League.

In that era, the club discovered an excellent goalscorer in Jacky Drinkwater "the younger". In the 1943 season, Drinkwater topped the North goal-list with 27.

In 1945, the club was reformed and the playing strength was much stronger. Kev O'Neill, Phil Peters, Drinkwater, J. B. Evans, J. Fairlie, Lou Hearne, K. Levido, J. Nimmo, Dave Evans. Cessnock was the defeated finalist in the Association Cup final in 1944, going down to Merewether after a tense 90-minute struggle.

Cessnock's XI was: W. Ingles, T. Jurd, F. Pickett, J. Hamilton, J. Thomson, N. Henderson, K. Hill, K. Thomson, J. Drinkwater, D. Evans, K. Donnelly. In the scoring achievements, Drinkwater 18, Keith Thomson 13, were the most successful.

Cliff Almond was a major gain in 1946 and his presence led to an excellent recovery. The "Nocks" entered both the semi-finals of the Daniel and Stevenson Cups — defeated but not disgraced in both ties.

Another local product, Kev O'Neill, after consistent good play, won his first State Cap against Queensland. This began a long and illustrious career in the representative sphere, especially in the International zone. Good judgment by officials in the promotion of local juniors put Cessnock on the road up. Such names as Jacky Lennard, George Eagleton, Bob Maxwell, K. McLennan, M. Slade, G. Stevenson, Neil Henderson, became regulars in 1948 — a very satisfying season.

Once again J. Drinkwater topped the scoring with 21 goals, followed by Phil Peters 15, L. Jowett 10. Goalie, Len Falk won his State Cap against Queensland while another star was born in school-teacher Jimmy Porteus, who showed that he was a skilful ball manipulator.

Support for the club was on the upgrade again.

It was a courageous effort in 1949 for the youthful Cessnock team to win its way into the State Cup semi-final, only to go down to Granville, at Wallsend on a heavy surface. Their eleven on that occasion was: Falk, Almond, Hearne, Crossley, O'Neill, Henderson, W. Thomson, P. Peters, J. Drinkwater, T. Portland, J. Porteus. Players O'Neill, Hearne, Drinkwater played in matches against the visiting Yugoslavs.

Back in the inter-city division, 1950 saw the appearance of Johnny Barr, who transferred from Kurri, while Alf Mosher and Roy Simons were also new recruits. Goalscoring was at a high peak with Drinkwater (26), T. Portland (12) and P. Peters (10) among the leaders. At the end of the season, Kev O'Neill won a place in the Australian party to tour South Africa — worthy to note that he played in the four tests played, while Cliff Almond played for N.S.W. v Queensland in four matches. Alec Pardon became a regular in 1951,

while Goalie Scanlan proved a reliable goalie under pressure. The club, after a promising start fell away to tenth place on the table.

Brighter deeds lifted the club in 1952 when Cessnock finished second to Wallsend in the Northern Division. A Scot, John Hendry, strengthened the defence while the youthful Jack Pettigrew made his initial appearance in the senior side. Goalscorers were J. Drinkwater (21) and J. Barr (14). Cliff Almond played for N.S.W. in interstate carnival in Melbourne.

International, Alec Heaney was a big gain for the 1953 season. The club finished third in Northern Section with Drinkwater (28), A. Heaney (13), C. Almond (10) the chief goalscorers. In the Stevenson Cup final at Cessnock, the locals downed Greta Austral by 2 to 1 in a real crowd-pleaser. The winning eleven included Garatty, Almond, Purdon, Thomson, O'Neill, Hendry, R. Thomson, J. Barr, J. Drinkwater, J. Johnson, M. Slade.

After seasons of rebuilding, Cessnock won the Northern title with a 7 points margin over Wallsend. The eleven was well balanced and played very attractive soccer. Again Drinkwater topped the scoring with 20 goals, followed by C. Almond (14) and Jim Porteus (14). Bildo Edwards was an acquisition to the defence.

In the State final at Newcastle on a cold, bleak day with strong winds, Cessnock beat Auburn by 2 to 0. Cessnock kept the ball on the ground and were worthy winners. Team was: Nelson, Pettigrew, Purdon, W. Thomson, O'Neill, Henderson, Porteus, Barr, Drinkwater, Heaney, Stevenson. In the interstate carnival, the club had two representatives in Almond and O'Neill.

Cessnock's regain of success continued into 1955. The team retained the Northern title and won the Minor State final 2 to 1 v Corrimal. In the major title three weeks later, Corrimal reversed this result by 11 to 3 — the absence of Heaney was sorely felt by the Coalfields. In the first game, Cessnock's eleven was: Nelson, Almond, Edwards, Henderson, Pettigrew, Barr, Thomson, Porteus, Drinkwater, O'Neill, Heaney. In the second clash Younger replaced Heaney, who was on the injured list. O'Neill and Drinkwater played for N.S.W. v Victoria, while O'Neill, Almond, Porteus played against the South China team. In the goalscorer quest, Drinkwater secured 30 and Jim Porteus 23.

In 1956, Cessnock retained its Northern title again with a seven point margin over Wallsend.

In the late season's play-offs, Cessnock went down to Corrimal by 4 to 1 in the semi-final, but regained the title in the major final by reversing the decision to the tune of 2 to 0 at Lambert Park.

The "Nock" eleven in both these games comprised: J. Nelson, J. Pettigrew, N. Henderson, W. Thomson, K. O'Neill, J. Barr, C. Almond, J. Lennard, J. Drinkwater, J. Porteus, A. Heaney. Drink-

water broke club's goalscoring recording by netting 50 goals with Lennard (29), Porteus (16), Almond (14). The club secured two players, Jack Lennard and J. Pettigrew, in the Olympic squad to represent Australia in Melbourne.

Interstate caps were also won by O'Neill, Barr, Almond and Pettigrew — a truly great array of honours. In 1957, Cessnock finished a point behind Wallsend in the Northern race — with Drinkwater (33), J. Lennard (24), J. Barr (19), W. Thomson (12), the outstanding goalscorers.

After beating Awaba in the sectional semi-final, Cessnock bowed out to Corrimal in the State semi-final by 3 to 2. Their eleven included Falk, W. Whitelaw, N. Henderson, W. Thomson, J. Pettigrew, K. O'Neill, H. Mysek, J. Lennard, J. Drinkwater, J. Barr, A. Heaney.

However, interstate caps were won by O'Neill, Lennard and Pettigrew. Another State honour came to the Coalfields City in 1958 when the "Nocks" revealed all-round talent and skill to down the strong Leichhardt XI at Wallsend by 4 to 2 in a classic final where the Coalies showed traditional pluck to win comfortably by 4 to 2 after leading at the interval by 3 to 1. Cessnock's XI: J. Nelson, C. Almond, W. Whitelaw, W. Thomson, J. Pettigrew, N. Henderson, K. O'Neill, J. Lennard, J. Barr, J. Drinkwater, J. Porteus. Goalscorers for the season were J. Lennard (24), J. Drinkwater (22), J. Barr (14), J. Porteus (13).

A trophy which had eluded the club for over 20 years was won when it beat Adamstown by 2 to 1 in the Daniels Cup final. H. Mysek replaced Porteus in this Cup tie. A prolonged absence due to injury kept Drinkwater on the sidelines in 1959 and the "Nocks" slipped to fifth place.

Goalscorers for the season were J. Lennard 16, C. Almond 15, J. Barr 13, J. Porteus 11.

A pleasing revival was staged in 1960 when Cessnock regained the Northern title. New players included A. Simmonds, D. Bright, A. Lynch, Alan Johns, B. Schroder, K. Gabriel, B. Williams, M. Willoughby.

The Reserve graders also did well, finishing second in that section. Goalscorers were A. Simmonds 28, J. Lennard 24, J. Barr 18, J. Drinkwater 17. After crashing West Wallsend by 5 to 3 in the semi-final, Cessnock beat Wallsend by 2 to 0 in the final. The eleven for that match included: J. Nelson, M. Willoughby, C. Almond, A. Johns, D. Bright, B. Williams, B. Schroder, A. Simmonds, J. Barr, J. Lennard, W. Edwards — in the semi-final, R. Morris had replaced the injured Lennard. Two of the club's Internationals, K. O'Neill went to Sydney Prague and J. Pettigrew to Gladesville in the Federation ranks. In 1961, Drinkwater left for Awaba and Simmonds to

Adamstown, and goalie, Jim Nelson, retired. However, a star junior, J. Roberts, was discovered. Only progress was achieved in the Craven Final where the club lost to Lake Macquarie by 4 to 1. Team in that final was: J. Roberts, M. Willoughby, W. Edwards, J. Jarvie, C. Almond, B. Williams, R. Morris, A. Johns, J. Barr, J. Lennard, P. Merrick. Goalscorers in 1962 were: J. Barr 16, J. Lennard 13, A. Johns 10.

1963 was a barren year for the "Nocks". No club honours but J. Barr and J. Lennard secured caps for Northern N.S.W. in the interstate series.

New arrivals to the club included Tom Sneddon, N. Jackson, J. Hogg, S. Main, R. Manderson. Goals were netted by A. Johns (13), J. Barr (12). Cessnock, by finishing ninth on the points table, just missed relegation in 1964. One of their defenders, Tom Sneddon, won three State caps in the interstate series. New arrivals were Terry Barr, K. Rowbottom, K. Duncan, G. Payne.

The return of international, J. Pettigrew did not stop Cessnock from falling into the 2nd Division. Only seven points were gained from 18 matches. Almond and Sneddon won places in the N.S.W. team which played in the final of the B.O.A.C. Cup in New Zealand.

In 1966, Cessnock's effort in 2nd Division was only mediocre, but their reserves finished in second place to qualify for the play-offs.

In 1967, Cessnock did little to create any enthusiasm and were set for another season in the 2nd Division. Shrewd recruitment the next winter showed a vast improvement. New players included Doug Fields, the Hogg brothers, the Jackson brothers, Freebain, Durie, Hindmarsh, Davies, Halverson, Hallam and Davis.

This youthful combination showed consistency and won its way to Grand Final v Cardiff, but went down by 2 to 1. Their eleven comprised: J. Hogg, R. Jackson, C. Almond, S. Jackson, B. Freebain, P. Durie, G. Hindmarsh, R. Davis, B. Davies, D. Field and W. Halverson.

Back in 1st Division in 1969, the team failed to click and took out the woodenspoon trophy.

Season 1970 saw Cessnock pull every muscle to re-establish itself in the top circle. Solid defender, Tom Sneddon left for nearby Weston where he soon became a leading light.

Young players tried included R. Versey, P. Knipe, G. Stokes, J. Orr, K. Drage, P. Whitfield.

The club went to rock bottom in 1971 to be relegated again. With many local juniors, Cessnock finished second behind Mayfield United, while its reserves finished on top of that division. The Under 18 years team was fourth with 14 wins. It was a very satisfying winter with main aim to develop local talent for future seasons.

At the end of 1973, Cessnock finished in fifth position, a creditable effort with 13 wins and 3 draws in a 26-match premiership series. Scorers were: M. Southworth 18, P. Mitchell 18, P. Robertson 11, James Hogg 10. Goalie John Hogg completed 200 senior games with the club.

In 1974, Cessnock were the beaten finalists for the Ampol North Cup, bowing out to N. Lambton South by 2 to 1. Defeated eleven included: J. Hogg, J. Cowan, P. Whitfield, N. Broadbent, G. King, S. Allen, P. Paul, Jim Hogg, M. Southworth, P. Mitchell, P. Robertson. During the season, State caps went to John Hogg and G. King.

Goalscorers in this series were: P. Mitchell 20, Jim Hogg 14, M. Southworth 12, P. Robertson 10. In an enlarged Northern League in 1975, Cessnock's efforts were not encouraging. However, best goal getters included Mike Southward (13), P. Mitchell (12), Jim Hogg (10).

Further decline in 1976 saw Cessnock relegated to 2nd Division. A praiseworthy effort in 1977 saw the "Nocks" regain 1st Division status with only two defeats in 22 games.

Special praise is due to P. Mitchell, who netted 24 goals in the campaign. Two new imports from London will strengthen the "Nocks" for the 1978 season in 1st Division. Plans are already in operation to strengthen the playing staff for 1979.

KURRI KURRI

Soon after mining operations commenced around Kurri Kurri, a Soccer Club was formed in March, 1904. This was a natural sequence as many miners flocked from Minmi, West Wallsend, Duckenfield and Greta where unemployment was common. Many were soccer followers.

Kurri Kurri grew like a mushroom and soon had a population of 4,000. Well known cricketer-footballer, Arch Wilson sponsored the inaugural meeting held on a vacant allotment opposite the Empire Hotel. Tom Kirkwood was the first secretary and he soon had three teams operating in the Newcastle competition. Matches were only played once a fortnight — on pay-weekend. First ground was in Central Park in Coronation Street. Club colours were red, white and blue but this combination was difficult to procure in those days.

Registrations of that period show the following details:

Kurri Kurri (red and white) — H. Turnbull, J. Turnbull, J. Brown, B. Charlton, S. Phoenix, J. Gilmour, C. Simpson, E. Newey, A. Elliott, T. Jeffries, T. Harris, A. Smith, E. Hancock, A. Roach, T. Peters, J. Peters, M. Wilson, A. Ross, J. Ballard, H. Williamson, G. Petridge.

Kurri Rivals (black and white hoops) — W. Jones, T. Kirkwood, M. Loble, J. Scott, A. Smith, B. Chappell, S. Banford, S. Peters, C. Pearce, W. Wilks, J. Oglethorpe, C. Turnbull, J. Sawyer.

Kurri Royals (red) — J. Robertson, A. Charelli, J. Cowley, F. Lewis, G. Brown, D. Jones, V. O'Donnell, D. Baird, H. Stottard, C. Turnbull, W. Oglethorpe, J. Blair.

The first match in Kurri was between the locals and Broadmeadow in April, 1904 and won by the visitors by 3 to 0. A crowd of 600 saw Heddon Greta beat Kurri by 6 to 1, while the local derby v Pelaw Main ended in a thrilling 1 all draw.

Three seasons passed and there was little activity in the Kurri Club. The majority of players flocked to nearby Pelaw Main.

However, in 1908, there was a revival in Kurri due to the enthusiasm of "Jockey" Stevenson, the former Minmi star. The registrations for that season included W. "Bondi" Neal, J. Stevenson, D. Jones, J. Dyson, W. Johnstone, T. Lucas, P. Drinan, E. Taylor, J. Turnbull, J. Drinan, D. Hughes, J. Mackay, J. Taylor, R. Coulson, M. Cork, A. Lavender, C. Cartwright, T. Cowley, J. Cowley.

It was in this season that the first Cessnock v Kurri clash occurred. In two games the first ended in a 2 all draw, but in the return clash at Kurri, the locals won by 3 to 2 in a keen game which attracted about 500 enthusiasts. The club's second string included: W. Brown, W. Johns, W. Chappell, W. Richardson, E. Cox, J. Hadley, W. Bower, A. Orchard, R. Kessells, E. Kelly, Jim Brown, C. Grimson, J. Gould, W. Morgan, J. Outram, T. Cowley, A. Peters, T. Morrison. Both teams enjoyed successful seasons.

First main success came to the Tricolours in 1909 when a very youthful team coached by "Jockey" Stevenson won the first junior title, scoring 47 goals against 15. The players gaining medals included C. Grimson (Capt.), G. Johns, E. Cox, A. Orchard, T. Roddom, J. Hadley, J. Mohr, J. Morgan, W. Orchard, T. Morrison, W. Bower, A. Chapple, J. Matich. Grimson was top-scorer with 22 goals, W. Bower (8), T. Morrison (7), W. Orchard (6), J. Mohr (2), T. Roddom (1).

Interesting to note that Matich and the Orchard brothers later became excellent Rugby players.

Interchange of players between the two codes in this era was quite a common occurrence.

Kurri Kurri came back into soccer prominence in 1913 when its second grade eleven was as powerful as any of the senior grades.

During the season, Kurri looked like potential premiers. The competition was well balanced with entries from Weston, East Greta, Greta, Kurri, Dudley, Our Boys, West Wallsend, Merewether, Killingworth and Boolaroo.

Kurri entered the final by beating Our Boys by 2 to 0 and faced Merewether in the final.

Kurri's eleven was J. Swarbrick, J. Wallworth, A. Ramage, J. Hadley, J. Lockhart, J. Wardlaugh, C. Grimson, D. Clarke, S. Brown,

J. Horsey, J. Burfitt, Bower (12). The team was coached by former English amateur, Jack Lockhart, a powerful 6ft. centre half, with the ability to read the opposition. Ramage and Clarke later played senior grade with Weston and West Wallsend and were later killed in action in France. Wallworth was an experienced player from Adamstown, where he won a Gardiner Cup medal.

The centre-forward, "Snow" Brown, was a tough 15st. attacker, whose goalscoring feats brought the crowd to its feet.

The outside left, Jack Burfitt, was a fast mover. He had won fame in Kurri for his batting with the local cricketers.

On the Bike Track wicket, Burfitt hit 123 in 75 minutes to create a local record for fast scoring — his innings included 9 sixes and 16 fours — a century from boundary hits.

Lockhart jokingly remarked, "Kurri eleven is better than a pack of cards — it has six Jacks — real jokers too."

Grimson was a local lad, who on several occasions refused offers from senior clubs — Grimson, Bower and Hadley were loyal Kurri-ites.

Sad to relate, two players of this grand eleven — Grimson and Brown — died as victims in the 'flu epidemic in 1918-1919 period.

Grimson's son, Tom, later became a senior player with West Wallsend and St. George.

For years now, he has been one of the leading administrators in the Australian Soccer Federation. He is the Hon. Treasurer of the Australian Soccer Federation and a leading executive in the Commonwealth Taxation Department.

The N.D.B.F.A. created a precedent by staging the Kurri v Merewether 2nd grade final after the senior final.

Merewether won the final by 4 to 2 — Kurri played 86 minutes of the game with only 10 men.

In the fourth minute, goalie, Jack Swarbrick, fractured his arm in a goal mouth melee.

The opposition, Merewether, requested Kurri to replace the injured goalie but the referee refused this. Burfitt and Clarke scored Kurri's two goals.

After the match, association official, Mr. G. Reay, of Dudley, produced the minute book of 1908 when it was agreed that in cases of injured goalies, replacements be permitted.

Despite this advice, Kurri refused to protest or request a replay. Lockhart said, "Merewether were real sportsmen, they won, so give them the medals." — Kurri's action was applauded in all areas where soccer was played.

The early history of the club would not be completed without reference to that likeable personality, "Wafer" Maroney. Early in

1916, he formed a strong 1st junior team in which he acted as manager, secretary, goalkeeper — or if needs be, left winger. Fleet of foot, Maroney was a member of a sporting family which included Mick Maroney, Coalfields boxing star, whose career in the hempen square was shortened by a severe injury to his left hand — Dave, somewhat older — a hard tackling Rugby League forward and the younger Teddy, who won the Australian Flyweight boxing title later.

Unfortunately, a severe injury in the mine left "Wafer" a partial cripple. When his playing days were over he became a leading light in soccer management.

Among the 1916 KK Royals were W. Maroney, Partridge, Kelly, Jenkins, Lloyd, Newman, Young, Potts, Liversage, Burns, Thurling. Its success laid the foundation stone for seasons ahead.

The Coalfields Rechabite Competition initiated by Harry Speers of Kurri created new interest among the lower aged groups. Kurri beat Cessnock by 1 to 0 in final but lost to Adamstown by 2 to 1 in the Northern final.

Maroney in 1917 organised four Junior teams and the Under-18 years was the most successful. Among its ranks were — Higgins, P. Lennard, Morrison, Brown, Field, Lindsay, Crosbie, Sampson, Oliver, Bower, Allan, Stanmore and Hill.

It was due to Maroney's initiative that the 1918 Under-18 Years competition proved the best ever. Five evenly matched teams faced a gruelling fight for honours — Aberdare, Abermain, Cessnock, Kurri and Weston.

Weston beat Abermain in first semi-final by 2 to 1, while Kurri caused a major upset by crushing Cessnock by 4 to 0 — over 1200 saw this last match on the Homestead. Another big crowd saw Kurri beat Weston by 2 to 1 at Weston. Stan Field scored both Kurri's goals while Taylor netted for Weston. Weston's interstate skipper, Bill Lambert, remarked, "These two semi-finals have proved that there are tons of local players ready to play senior football."

Kurri winning eleven included J. Stevenson, G. Willetts, P. Semnard (Capt.), A. Rees, E. Searson, S. Stanmore, C. Wilson, K. Rodgers, S. Field, S. Grant, W. Evans — reserves E. Ace, F. Foster, V. McLean, S. Ross — eight of that combination later played senior soccer. Encouraged by success, Maroney challenged the Newcastle winners, Wood-pickers (West Wallsend) to win by 2 to 1. Interesting to note that Bill "Podge" Maunders scored the "Peckers" only goal. Then Kurri played the Sydney champions, Gladesville, in a "home and away" series — in Sydney 2 all — at Kurri 3 to 1, hence Kurri won the unofficial Under-18 Years title by 5 to 3. Later the passing of "Wafer" Maroney left a vacant spot in local soccer organisation.

It is worthy too to note that his Under-16 Years eleven lost in the final. Players here included A. Bell, A. Paul, W. Ashcroft, C. Jacobs,

W. Beavis, W. Pryde, N. Price, J. Dyson, J. Rae, A. Ramage, R. Bower, S. Jenkins, S. Morrison and L. Hargraves.

The club's 3rd grade side also won a place in the final. Its players included Maroney, Kessell, B. Scott, Filby, Brown, Halliday, Bower, Bower, Pugh, Dixon, Dodds, Lennard, N. Scott.

Club celebrations for season's successes had hardly ceased when greater celebrations were in full blast as World War I had ceased and peace once again reigned.

But Kurri mourned the loss overseas of some of its illustrious sons — F. Ramage, D. Clarke, J. Lockhart, S. Morrison, R. Wilson, to name a few. When peace returned, junior success in Kurri continued. The growth in these ranks became a real problem and resulted in a strong new club, Kurri North End, with its own ground, developed under the presidency of Harry Speers and secretary George "Pongo" Grant and the Armstrong brothers.

George Grant later became secretary of the senior club. He was actively associated with the Hebburn Miners' Lodge and became General Secretary of the Miners' Federation with headquarters in Sydney. Later, he gave soccer an excellent coverage in the weekly journal, "Common Cause".

At the end of the 1920 season the Northern Secretary, Larry Tamlyn, probed the Coalfields for senior entries.

Cessnock readily responded. The former Minmi player and official, Billy McBlane, called a meeting of soccer enthusiasts one Sunday morning in the Allworth corner of the Central Park. Over 40 enthusiasts attended and a senior club was reformed with G. Winship as president and Billy McBlane as secretary. A senior entry was submitted and accepted by the N.D.B.F.A. Opening game was local derby v Weston at Kurri where the collection box produced £9/10/6. Weston's experienced skipper, Bill Lambert, after winning the toss, remarked, "Well we're up against a group of juniors so how many goals?" The result, a 2 all draw — with the locals unlucky as Lambert secured the equaliser in the 88th minute. Rodgers and Fields scored for the Tricolours while J. Avis and Lambert for Weston. Despite an enthusiastic start, which brought bigger crowds, their initial successes were not maintained and at the end of the season, the team finished on 14 points or sixth on the points table.

Its first excursion into the famous Gardiner Cup series produced a 5 to 1 win over Lysaghts; an 0 all draw and 1 all draw v Wallsend. However, against the experienced Granville XI, Kurri went down by 4 to 0.

Players used during the season included: Brown, Elton, Stevenson, W. Ashcroft, S. Wells, A. Rees, J. Pringle, R. Bower, S. Field, K. Rodgers, B. Watson, N. Tiedman, J. Bower, G. Winship, S. Oliver, A. Campbell.

Season 1922 saw the arrival at the Drill Hall squad, of Andy and Bob Henderson, Jack Laird and J. Buchan.

Although the quality of football was much better, only nine points were netted in the premiership. The team badly needed a goalscoring forward.

Players used included: W. Brown, A. Rees, G. Willetts, R. Henderson, J. Laird, W. Ashcroft, S. Field, R. Bower, S. Wells, A. Henderson, K. Rodgers, W. Watson, S. Oliver, J. Dixon, J. Buchan, S. Hawke, E. Fowler.

The quest for honours continued for the 1923 campaign and new players in Jock Martin, a former Scot professional from East Stirling; Jimmy McCrae from Granville, G. Tinlin and a South African, Frank Wilson, a half back with excellent ball control and a master of positional play. In new colours of green and white, Kurri did much better with 7 wins, 4 draws and 4 losses — just missing a place in the semi-finals.

Players used included N. Martin, R. Bower, T. O'Brien, R. Henderson, J. Martin, W. Ashcroft, W. Watson, A. Henderson, G. Willetts, S. Wells, W. Orchard, C. Buchan, J. McCrae.

Kurri officials were critical of the action of the P. & D. Committee in deducting a point in opening series when J. Martin's transfer was delayed in transit. That point meant much more at the end of the season.

The 1925 season opened when popular international, A. "Dutchy" Phillips and Bill Foley came north from Annandale. Other gains included Tom McNabb (a Scot), P. Simons, Noey Price, Geo. Jones, H. Bennett. Once again a position in the semi-finals eluded the Drill Hall brigade. The season's income was a record and improvements were made on the ground, which was situated in the centre of the business section of the town.

Foley headed the scoring with 16 goals while Phillips netted 10. In the Gardiner Cup, Kurri beat Mayfield by 6 to 2, Adamstown by 2 to 1 but were knocked out by West Wallsend by 5 to 1 in third round — Westy went on to win the coveted trophy.

Kurri strengthened its staff for 1925. Three Adamstown players, Jim Beddow, Jack Stewart and "Fido" Stewart were recruited along with Sept Kidd, Pat Cahill and Tommy Green from the South Coast.

Kurri opened in brilliant fashion winning its first six games — finishing second on 22 points to West Wallsend on 27.

Kurri went down to Adamstown by 2 to 1 in the first semi-final. Goalscorers were J. Stewart (14), W. Foley (11), N. Price (10).

In the Gardiner Cup, it beat Newcastle (4 to 0), Eastern Suburbs (1 to 0) but failed in the third round to Cessnock by 2 to 1.

One of the club's most artistic forwards, "Dutchy" Phillips, played for Australia v England in Melbourne in the 4th Test match during the 1925 season.

By this time, Kurri had become an attractive team and a prosperous club, with the best defensive record in the North — only 17 goals conceded in 20 matches. This forward line of Noey Price, Phillips, Foley, McCrae and J. Stewart gave classical displays on many occasions.

For the 1926 season, two brilliant local juniors, "Boxer" Goodwin (goal) and Harold "Gina" Pringle (winger) won promotion. Also Bobby Wells, Bob Bower and Tom Warren won regular places in the top eleven.

A strong claim for honours was made in the opening half of the season but later a loss of form kept Kurri out of the semis. In a Gardiner Cup tie v West Wallsend, Kurri's star, Dutchy Phillips, broke his leg, an unfortunate accident which ended his illustrious career. Both teams staged a testimonial for Phillips and over £200 was raised.

Kurri's goalscorers in that season were Noey Price 25, H. Pringle 20, W. Garland 8, S. Wells 5, A. Phillips 5. In 1927, a rebuilding scheme was adopted. New signings included H. Ashcroft (goalie) from North of England, J. Farrey (from Weston), H. Maunders (West Wallsend), J. Mackay (Scot junior), H. McCaw (Scot from St. George), Sid Masters (West Wallsend) and local juniors in Richards, Partridge, Hughes and Bartley. The season's activities would not be complete without reference to the dual success of Kurri Reserves — a team of local youths managed by the club's president, Sid Grant. Their premiership record was — played 22, won 17, lost 1, drew 4; goals for 74, against 15. This combination beat Cardiff 3 to 1 in semi-final and ousted Wallsend 3 to 1 in the final. They won the Harvey Cup, Middleton Cup and gold medals. The scorers were Lyall Rees 15, Sal Jenkins 13, R. Partridge 8, J. Bower 8, H. Gemmell 6, H. Goodwin 5, L. Paul 5, W. Winship 4, J. Paterson 4, C. Ross 3, R. Bryce 3.

Scorers in the senior grade were: N. Price 25, H. Pringle 20, S. Masters 12, S. Kidd 6, R. Wells 4, W. Barclay 4, H. McCaw 3, H. Maunders 3, W. Gartland 2, J. Mackay, H. Goodwin, L. Paul, Ly Rees 1 each.

Such a success came just as the first State League was being founded. To this new movement, Kurri gave powerful support with Dan Rees, George Winship and Sid Grant delegates to the first major conference at Weston.

The Drill Hall was well equipped when the 1928 season opened.

President Grant and Winship were given full powers to implement the playing staff. Soon internationals, Clarrie Coutts, "Wagga"

James (West Wallsend), Andy Park and Roy McNaughton (Cessnock) were signed. But after six series, there was a "big bust-up" as certain committeemen usurped powers and disgruntled players refused to continue their contracts. President Grant resigned but not before forcing an inquiry, in which he severely criticised certain members for their illegal bargaining. The club, however, created history by clashing five times against Aberdare in the Cup semi-final. This match is dealt with elsewhere. Kurri's leading goalscorer was Noey Price (18) with McNaughton (7) and Pringle (6). The 1929 season was Kurri's "Season Marvellous" but not without drama near the end of the campaign.

After the premiership campaign ended, Kurri and Cessnock finished on level points. These were the figures:

	P.	W.	L.	D.	GF	GA	Pts
Cessnock	26	19	4	3	111	42	41
Kurri	26	19	4	3	125	51	41

As you can see, Cessnock won the title on goal averages.

A month before the end, Kurri made inquiries of what would happen if teams finished on same points.

Official reply was "longlist FA rules apply".

As a sporting journalist, "Hot Shot" in the telegraph wrote, "that there was a consistent demand, all over the North, for a final, the income of which would boost the financial state of the State League and competing clubs". But the chance was missed and within two years the code was again languishing in the doldrums. Rather strange that even in 1977, in the inaugural season of the Philips National League, the same silly error was repeated — two clubs, Sydney Hakoah and Marconi finished on level points — but goal averages decided the title and the season finished like a big "squib".

Surely it is sane comment to assert that the Australian paying public from North to South, East to West, demand the semi-final and final and grand final idea — created and perfected by the Australian Rules administrators in Melbourne.

To claim that season's winner is Premiers may be alright and given a major honour and large cash award — but there's gold in the semi-final and grand final ideas. I noted that with great interest when in the Northern Premiers League in England, in the 1976 season, Consett and Scarborough finished level on 76 points — problem solved by a final, which was won by Scarborough by 3 to 2. So the idea has won a place in the conservative Britain.

Goalscorers for Kurri in 1929 were C. James 50, W. Maunders 50, H. Pringle 10, W. Price 8, Lyle Rees 7, V. Barnett 6.

Kurri's playing squad for 1930 included McCroarey (Weston), Sid Masters (West Wallsend), while local lad Vic Barnett showed top

class as a left winger. The team gained 24 points and finished on tenth place and went out to Cessnock by 3 to 0 in the first round of the State Cup.

The 1931 season saw a return to N & S Division and Kurri were hard pressed and from 14 matches, it gained three wins and finished at the bottom of the Northern Section. Locals given chances included Geo. Keir, Bill Bower, Chilla Foulkes, Bill Price. It is interesting to note that Dutchy Phillips reappeared in two games to score three goals. J. Stroker (14) and Bill Price (13) were top scorers. In State Cup, after beating Corrimal by 3 to 0, Kurri went out to Cessnock by 3 to 0 after a 2 all draw at Kurri.

In 1932, Kurri did better with 13 points in the Northern Division. In State Cup, it crushed Speers Point by 7 to 0 but failed against Balgownie to the tune of 8 to 2.

In 1934, Statewide contest saw Kurri recover some of its prestige. It finished in ninth position. Top scorers were Bill Price 22, J. Brown 15, C. Madden 15, V. Barnett 13, Rowley James 12.

But its five tie clash with Weston in the second round of the Cup was meritorious. Scores were 2 all, 1 all, 2 all, 2 all, Weston 5 v Kurri 3 after extra time. In all, the ties lasted 630 minutes; worth a place in any record book. The 1935 season saw Kurri secure 23 points in a 22 game premiership. Hughie Workman top scored with 20 goals, followed by V. Barnett (15), C. Madden (15). Kurri only survived two more seasons when it withdrew from the top circle. In 1936 its best scorers were W. Moy (11), D. Nesbitt (10), while in 1937 it finished at the bottom of the table. In that season, K. Nix (13), A. Jenkins (10) and D. Nesbitt (8) were top goalscorers. Kurri reappeared in the Northern Division again in 1942 with many local players including L. Falk, J. Humble, Bob Portland, G. Lamb, Len Hearne, R. Sneddon, A. Foster, W. Edwards, R. Gibson, H. Archibald, Ken Booth.

In 1943, we saw the breakaway move by Sydney clubs. To keep the flag flying all Maitland clubs organised a local league of eight clubs. Kurri won the South Maitland title and was defeated by Swansea (Newcastle Premiers) by 3 to 1 in Northern final.

In the Sheahan Cup semi-final, Kurri played a 4 all draw v Woonona but lost the replay at the Sydney Sports Ground by 3 to 0.

In the South Maitland semi-final, Kurri downed Cessnock by 2 to 1 in semi-final and later beat Bellbird in final at Weston by 3 to 2.

Players used in these vital games included L. Falk, W. Moy, L. Hearne, K. O'Neill, D. Hale, R. Greig, K. Booth, R. Portland, A. Jenkins, W. Harris, A. Sneddon, E. Williams, A. Orchard, A. Rees.

In 1944, a Northern League was formed with Maitland and Newcastle contestants: Merewether, Dudley, Cessnock and Kurri

qualified for Sheahan Cup semi-finals. Kurri beat Merewether by 2 to 1 but lost the final to Dudley by 3 to 0. Kurri players used included: L. Falk, W. Moy, R. Simons, D. Hale, A. L. Foster, R. Greigg, A. Sneddon, C. Wolfenden, J. Humble, A. Jenkins, L. Hearne, L. Burnett, E. Williams, W. Harris, K. Booth.

Peace again reigned in 1945 and Kurri had a poor season but qualified for Stevenson Cup final in which it went down to the powerful Wallsend XI by 3 to 1. Kurri's XI: L. Falk, W. Moy, R. Simons, A. Jenkins, G. Tomlinson, A. Purdon, H. Waugh, W. Harris, W. Dunlop, W. Whittaker, A. Rees. Other players used during the season included J. Orr, L. Standen, K. Murnane, S. McKendry.

Another uneventful season in 1946 for Kurri saw the "Tricolours" use 26 players in 19 matches — R. Edmunds, B. Wilson, A. Purdon, Jack Wilkinson, W. Moy, A. Jenkins, A. Dunnicliff, T. Waugh, G. Tomlinson, K. Lake, W. Harris, E. Browell, H. Barr, C. Woods, were consistent performers.

A slight improvement in League results in 1947, with players on list — W. Harris, C. Wood, K. Booth, W. Moy, A. Jenkins, J. Wilkinson, R. Simons, A. Purdon, R. Edmunds, K. Lake, J. Nimmo, G. Lamb, H. Barr, C. Walfender, L. Falk. Ray Simons with 14 goals was the leading goalscorer. In 1948, in a Northern League of eight teams, Kurri hit rock-bottom with only four points. Top scorer was Alby Jenkins on 10 goals. Kurri vacated the senior ranks till early in the seventies, when it joined the Federation 3rd Division. With three teams competing, it has shown excellent results.

The club will soon have a new ground built in an area just east of Hill Sixty. Prospects for the round ball game in Kurri are excellent as the club has an efficient and progressive committee. For the 1978 season, the club made a progressive move by engaging Brod Duma as playing coach. The "Roosters" started off in high gear in its bid for promotion to Second Division. One of the most pleasing aspects of the 1978 season was the success of the Kurri "Roosters".

Under the inspiring secretaryship of Ron Lowbridge, Kurri took out the Northern 3rd Division grand final and also won promotion to 2nd Division in 1979.

Club officials for the successful season included: President, Bob Dever; treasurer, John Schafer; secretary, Ron Lowbridge; coach, Bogdam Duma. Players in the grand final were: C. Grills, P. Palmer, J. Bennett, B. Moncrieff, G. Killen, G. Stokes, Stephen Duma, John Schafer, J. Cowan, John Duma, Bogdam Duma, R. Kmetyr, D. Kirich, G. Collins, D. Kirk. Replacement, T. Laing. Other players used during season were P. Connelly, P. Currie, K. Duncan, L. Germyn, G. Hamilton, D. Roberts, B. Steele, C de Krey.

Goalscorers: John Duma 26, B. Duma 20, S. Duma 8, I. Cowan 6, P. Currie 6, J. Schafer 4, G. Stokes 4, P. Schofield 4, B. Steele 2, T. Laing 1.

Reserve Grade — B. Steele 11.

Third Grade — R. Stokes 16.

All the three grades played in the championship series.

The top eleven scored 75 goals for and 22 against, the reserves 50 for and 17 against, while the thirds scored 75 against 22 — a grand total of 200 for and 61 against — a truly great achievement in any competition.

Kurri Kurri faces the future with confidence and its prospects are very bright.



Goalkeeping ace, Jimmy McNabb (Weston).



Winners of Gardiner Cup — 1918



State skipper, Jack Avis (Weston) in action v Chinese — 1923.



PELAW MAIN HEROES
George Muir, Roy Burns, Jack Peters, Sid Oliver.



WESTON BEARS 1st GRADE — 1977

Back Row: P. Bobbins, J. J. Turnbull, J. T. Turnbull, J. B. Turnbull.

Centre Row: M. Lomas (Manager), D. Thompson (Captain), D. Stoker, R. Lasance, O. Bellamy, C. Harper, M. Luccessi (Coach), W. Hawley (Secretary).

Front Row: T. Lynch (Masseur), T. McCabe, M. Davies, W. Allan, D. King, T. Snedden, J. Beatty (President) — Absent: R. Johnson, K. Riley.

ABERDARE

In the early twenties, Aberdare club supported several junior teams. With the growth of soccer in the western end of the Coalfields, a group of sportsmen headed by the former West Wallsend official, Ern Gibson, aided by a number of Scot migrants, application was made to the N.D.B.F.A. for permission to enter the senior competition. Local Publican, Bill Williams and Jimmy Lowe, pointed out that the withdrawal of Neath left an area of great potential. The application was successful and Aberdare entered the N.D.B.F.A. senior premiership in 1926.

The "red and blacks" did well and qualified for the semi-final, only to go down to its near rivals Cessnock by 3 to 1. Among its best players was a Scot import, Ben McLaren, a brilliant goalscorer centre; others were T. Shakespeare, C. Hill, J. Strong, D. Tonner, J. B. Evans, W. Mathewson, G. Wilkinson, G. Hartley, Jack Wilkinson. Evans later became one of Australia's best internationals.

In 1927, Aberdare finished third on the table with 11 wins and 2 draws yielding 24 points.

New players included Fox, Sterritt, A. Thomson, N. Brennan, W. Weir, J. Drinkwater, E. Mitchell, R. Stobba, D. Quinn, J. Kemp. In the semi-final, the "Dares" held Adamstown to a 2 all draw. In the replay, extra time was needed for Adamstown to win by 3 to 2. A. Thomson on 12 was the chief goalscorer as McLaren had moved to nearby Cessnock for a healthy retainer.

Aberdare joined the State League in 1928 and finished third on 25 points, with only one home defeat, by Kurri by 3 to 2. However, it was in Cup-tie football that the team showed its real worth. In the semi-final, it took five matches before it eliminated Kurri. This match is described in another chapter. In the inaugural Cup final at Cessnock, Aberdare won by 2 to 0. Its winning eleven included: H. McKissock, T. Hill, A. Henwood, T. Shakespeare, W. Sterritt, J. Evans, N. Brennan, J. Mackay, D. McLaren, A. Thomson, J. Drinkwater.

During that season, McLaren netted 22 goals to create a club record. New players tried included J. Colvin, H. Porteus, H. Orr, P. Hogan, J. Pettigrew, J. Smith, F. Wilson.

A fairly successful League season in 1929 saw Aberdare in seventh position with 16 teams competing. After a brilliant Cup win over Metters, Aberdare bowed out to Cessnock in second round by 5 to 1. Top scorers were: W. Ross 18, B. McLaren 17, N. Brennan 10, J. Drinkwater 10.

New players tried included P. Vials, A. Smith, S. Williams, J. Barclay, E. Odgers, D. Stevenson, J. Taylor, G. Mullens.

In 1930, Aberdare finished in ninth place with a poor away record with only three wins. In State Cup, after a meritorious win over Gladesville Ryde by 3 to 1, the "Dares" went out to Leichhardt

Annandale by 3 to 0. However, the club won the Stevenson Cup for the first time by beating its old enemy Cessnock in final at Aberdare by 3 to 1.

Their winning eleven was: Elvin, Sterritt, Henwood, Shakespeare, J. Taylor, Weir, Donnelly, Williams, Ross, Mackay, Drinkwater. W. Ross with 21 goals was leading scorer. J. Drinkwater created club record with 12 goals from the wing position.

In 1931 divisional football returned, but Aberdare could only muster two wins and four draws.

The season was a disappointing one with Drinkwater top scorer with 10 goals. R. Rumley, a local junior, showed distinct promise as a centre. A slight improvement was made in 1932, but with only 26 goals netted showed an apparent weakness. A new centre, W. Myers, was at the top of the list with 15.

The downward trend marked 1933, but the club qualified for the Stevenson Cup final only to lose to Weston by 2 to 0.

Little was gained in 1934 except McGarvie and W. Lonergan were discovered among local juniors. At the end of the season, a revival in Cup ties saw the "Dares" beat Balgownie (2 to 1), Wallsend (2 to 0) to qualify to meet St. George in Cup semi-final. The team which went down by 3 to 1 at Clyde Oval included: P. Cahill, R. McNaughton, S. Parks, J. Porteus, J. Taylor, R. Naismith, G. Mullens, W. Lonergan, G. Russell, G. McGarvie, D. Rumley.

In 1934, a return to Statewide series with Aberdare finishing in 13th place. The long season proved a big problem for the "Dares".

After beating Metters (5 to 3) in Cup, Aberdare was koyed by Weston by 3 to 0. The brightest feature was the brilliant form of centre Hugh Orr, with 44 goals, followed by T. Rumley (16), W. Lonergan (12), G. Mullens (11). A local junior, Kevin O'Neill, showed great promise.

A weak defence in 1935 marred its efforts. It finished level in 13th place with Cessnock on 14 points. In the Cup, it went out in first round, beaten by Wallsend by 2 to 0.

Again, Hugh Orr topped the score list with 23 goals — a fine effort indeed! Enthusiasm was waning and the "Dares" hit rock-bottom in 1936 by finishing in 16th place.

Orr was transferred to Metters while Rumley and Mullens went to Kurri. Lack of finance began to weaken the club and in 1937, Aberdare fell to the 13th position again. Local juniors were recruited with G. Humphries the best scorer on 16. At the end of the season, the club resigned from the State League.

In 1943 a team entered the Northern League but failed dismally. Another attempt in 1948 had similar results. Since that, the club has returned to the junior circles and has had several satisfying seasons.

It was apparent that in the western end of the Coalfields, that there was only sufficient support for one senior club — and as the senior club — Cessnock prevailed.

MAITLAND

It is generally accepted that the soccer game was born in Maitland when a group of enthusiasts formed a senior club in 1902.

Among the inaugural members were: John Sullivan, Harry Hetherington, R. Bielays, J. Kelly, J. Hughes, E. Grzegorczyk, J. Parker, John Kiss, Ian Thomson, H. Liebard, Sepp Meier and many others.

The flow of migrants into the local textile industry helped the code considerably.

However, conservative Maitland, devotees to the two Rugby codes, had slender association with the round ball code in the past. In 1909, the 1st Coalfields XI played West Australia on the Albion ground.

In 1925, a Test match between Australia and England drew over 10,000 to the Showground.

Many were impressed. Maitland Boys' High used a back portion of Maitland Park for its soccer teams. Twice, nearby East Greta entered teams under Maitland in 3rd and 4th grades.

In 1926, a youthful rector organised a Junior Churches competition with St. Mary's, St. Paul's, St. Luke's and St. Mary's 'B' participating.

Despite all these, the code did not click till after World War II. In its first season in 2nd Division, Maitland surprised by finishing in third spot behind Merewether and Jesmond — scoring 95 goals for and 42 against. Its record shows that it won 10 of its 11 home games. Its chief goalscorer, Ray Knorr netted on 34 occasions, scoring in all the 11 home games. Other scorers included M. Baumgartner on 22, I. Thomson 21, M. Baumgartner with 5. V. Vistula created the individual record for the club.

However, in the semi-final Maitland went out to Merewether by 7 to 2. Maitland's XI comprised: K. Loughland, H. Rudolph, D. Chester, J. Meier, F. Ranch, I. Thomson, D. Young, R. Knorr, I. McFarlane, K. Groyke, D. Newton.

In 1962, Maitland with added playing strength and greater public support, entered the semi-finals when it beat Jesmond by 2 to 1.

In the final against Whitebridge, a thrilling 2 all draw was the result. In the replay on a wet surface at Adamstown, Whitebridge ran out winners by 2 to 0.

The "Mates" eleven comprised: I. McFarlane (Scot), W. Partridge (Aussie), N. Vassilakis (Greek), J. Meier (German), F. Rauch (German), K. Parsons (Aussie), S. Ellenbacher (French), R. Knorr (German), B. Oldfield (English), Ian Thomson (Scot), F. Penfold (German), B. Pavicic (Yugoslav), R. Duma (16-year-old High School lad — Aussie), A. Steele (Aussie). Goalscorers were R. Knorr 19, I. Pavicic 14, Ian Thomson 10.

It was a highly successful season and Maitland was promoted to the First Division in 1963.

Against the North's strongest opposition, Maitland put up a creditable effort without getting among the honours.

In its first senior game v Wallsend at home, a record crowd of 1877 saw a thrilling scoreless draw. At the end of the seventh series, Maitland was unbeaten. Later its defence cracked under constant pressure. In the Ampol Cup, it moved into the third round to fall to Awaba. Chief scorers were R. Knorr 12, I. Thomson 11, K. Frewe 7.

Among the players employed were H. Schreider, I. Thomson, K. Simon, J. Meier, R. Knorr, F. Rauch, B. Oldfield, I. McFarlane, K. Frewe, F. Penfold, S. Ellenbacher, R. Baorting, L. Walsh, W. Simpson, C. Curran, R. Duma, R. Lewsam.

For the 1964 campaign, the club was badly hit by the departure of R. Knorr, F. Penfold, B. Oldfield, N. Vassilakis, I. McFarlane.

In an 18 match series, Maitland could only secure three wins, four draws and 11 losses. Its 1 all draw against Wallsend drew 1032 folk to their home ground.

New players included K. Grant, M. Mirisch, L. Bush, W. Scott, F. Wood, M. Parker, M. Bamback.

Goalscoring was below standard, 24 being netted in the League games.

In both the Ampol and Craven A series, the team failed in the first round.

In 1965, Maitland were relegated to the 2nd Division. It finished seventh, but its reserves did better to get second place to Belmont-Swansea. Better results were achieved in 1966 when the club went out in the final to Pan Hellenic — a sound performance. The senior side included K. Simon, H. Debior, R. Wilkin, R. Hughes, P. Neal, N. Davidson, E. Ellenbacher, K. Mirisch, K. Frewe, B. Duma, J. Peel.

The reserves also were beaten finalists, but it included many bright prospects. Its line-up included S. Griffiths, D. Moylan, F. Rauch, W. Weale, D. Chester, B. Pole, B. Howard, K. Laughlin, M. Taylor, J. Lanbalestier and E. Condon.

Still in the 2nd Division in 1967, Maitland finished in fifth position, but their reserves again did well to end up in second spot to New Lambton. Maitland's wise policy of encouraging local talent proved highly successful, for in 1968 the "Black and Whites" won the 2nd Division premiership with 20 wins and two losses in a 22 match programme. Maitland had a highly successful season in 1970, taking out the 2nd Division title with 131 goals against 27. In its 11 home games, it ran up 50 goals against 8, while in its away matches it rattled up 54 against 10 — amazing figures!!! Its victories included a 12 to 0 win over Lambton and 11 to 0 win over Whitebridge.

Its captain, Brian Whitehead, cracked 45 goals, while Tom Arrowsmith had 17 and Bogden Duma 12.

Whitehead's 7 goals v Stockton replaced Johnny Sheen's 6 goals v Bellbird as the club individual record. In this array of successes, Bill Baron, former Preston North Ebd star, was trainer-coach and John Parker team's manager.

The team lost in the Ampol Cup final v Awaba by 4 to 3 after a draw in the first clash.

In 1971, new players to appear were S. Griffiths, S. Toth, K. Boardman, A. Pavey, R. Walker, M. Davies, R. Wilkin, J. Leeman, J. Schafer, S. Duma.

Bog Duma proved an excellent sharpshooter scoring 25 goals, with Whitehead on 13. The loss of eight away matches did not help the club's final position.

In 1972, the "Black and White" brigade suffered another recession, dropping to 11th place in all the three grades. B. Duma did well to hit 16 goals.

Despite team losses, a determined effort in 1972 saw the club relegated again. It was a black season as Maitland took over the woodenspoon in all the three grades. Only 26 goals were netted in 26 matches. Away record of 12 losses and one win proved disastrous for the club, which was now experiencing great trouble to keep its gates open.

But the club rallied in 1974 to finish in third spot in the 2nd Division. The policy of trying to create a local junior competition, or create junior teams to enter the South Maitland series surely solved the club's future problems.

In 1975, Maitland had another excellent season and took out the 2nd Division title with 14 wins, 3 losses and 1 draw, scoring 57 goals to 8 by opponents. This defensive record stands high in the club's achievements. The goalkeeping of S. Griffiths needs special mention — a future international. Others in the eleven were: S. Toth, G. Byrnes, J. Bennett, C. Kelly, P. Osland, S. Allen, K. Ellenor, S. Duma, K. Mirisch.

In the grand final, Central Coast won by 3 to 2.

Maitland eleven comprised S. Griffiths, C. Kelly, J. Bennett, J. Davies, A. Byrnes, A. Povey, P. Osland, K. Murnane, K. Ellenor, S. Duma, B. Snedden, with T. Arrowsmith and W. Moncrieff as substitutes.

In the Ampol series, Maitland knocked out established clubs West Wallsend by 3 to 2, Cessnock by 2 to 1; but fell to Lake Macquarie in quarter-final by 4 to 0. Back in 1st Division, Maitland just escaped relegation — on goal average from Cessnock.

New recruits included G. Niznik, A. Harrison, S. Babic, R. Dear, P. Partridge, K. Gardner, J. Slott, R. Murdock, T. Osland, G. Soper, M. Cook, T. Foote.

In goalscoring, K. Boardman 8, Ellenor 7, S. Duma 6, S. Allen 5, did best.

Troubled waters arrived again in 1977 when lack of penetration up-field saw Maitland lose its place again. In 22 matches, only six goals at home and nine in away games revealed the basic weakness of the attack and defence which offered poor covering for custodian Griffiths. New players included R. Wilkin, T. Faulkner, D. Roberts, M. Lee, B. Munloven, M. Barron, W. Squires, S. Ontram.

The future of the club will need astute administration with an army of talent scouts watching its many junior games where future stars are located. Many feel that it won't be long before Maitland will regain a lot of its past glory.

KEARSLEY

It is difficult to pinpoint the start of soccer in Kearsley — a mining centre on the outskirts of Aberdare.

The game was first played in the local school in 1923-24. A junior team was formed and entered the S.M.S.A. competitions in 1923.

Progress was made and in the following season of 1924, Kearsley entered the S.M. senior grade along with Abermain, Kurri Reserves, Weston Reserves, Neath and Hebburn. It was a very healthy competition and Kearsley won the premiership. Two of its players, goalie F. Jones and fullback T. Hill, won places in the district representative team to meet and beat Queensland by 2 to 1 at Abermain.

During that vital season, Kearsley's regular team comprised Jones, Hill, McBlane, Patrick, Aikman, Single, J. Wilkinson, Charlton, G. Wilkinson, S. Jones, C. Gregory.

In the final of the Stevenson Cup, Kearsley beat Neath by 3 to 1 at Cessnock Pit Paddock. Scorers were J. Wilkinson 1, G. Wilkinson 1, Charlton 1, and Hartley for Neath. In the season G. Wilkinson netted 14 goals, Charlton 10, J. Wilkinson 8.

Kearsley repeated its success in 1925 by winning the premiership and beating Cessnock West End in final by 4 to 0. The winning eleven comprised F. Jones, M. McCort, E. Hill, J. Patrick, C. Hill, L. Atkinson, T. Junor, J. Wilkinson, S. Jones, G. Wilkinson, C. Gregory.

Despite keen opposition from nearby Aberdare, Kearsley did well in 1927. It beat a combined Neath-Abermain XI in Stevenson Cup by 4 to 0. Its team comprised F. Jones, A. Hodges, G. Angow, H. Kearsley, L. Atkinson, J. Patrick, P. Burgoyne, G. Wilkinson, J. Rutherford, H. Charlton, M. Stevens.

The advent of the Statewide premiership in 1928 drove Kearsley back into the junior circles till 1937 when the club entered the Stevenson Cup. After a series of wins it lost the final to Weston by 6 to 2; its scorers were R. Paddock and L. Johnson. Kearsley again played in the Stevenson Cup final in 1941, when Weston again took out the trophy by 5 to 1 — Green scoring Kearsley's sole goal.

When the breakaway came in 1942, Kearsley re-entered the localised senior league. It only had moderate success. Goalscorers were A. Jones (13), C. Pont (7), S. O'Neill (4), W. King (4), A. Green (4).

In the same competition in 1944, Kearsley's returns were poor — four wins in 16 matches. A. Green secured 10 goals but O'Brien, L. George, J. Laverick, A. Tomlinson did well in defence.

In 1948, Kearsley won honours in Coalfield senior grade after a thrilling struggle with Bellbird. No fewer than nine players scored double-figures during the season; they were M. Rorke 14, F. Griffin 14, P. Kerr 14, J. Sneddon 14, P. Powell 14, J. McLaren 14, G. Mason 13, J. Campbell 11, D. O'Brien 10, while O. Cresswell, R. Fitzpatrick, C. Gregory, W. Lomas excelled in defence.

Kearsley's activities were confined to the junior ranks till 1955 when the club entered a one-round senior series. The team won five out of seven, but failed to qualify for final.

In 1956, the club had a poor record in the League but played a 3 all draw in the third round of the Stevenson Cup against Weston, but lost the replay.

D. Powell (11), O. Cresswell (9) and B. Darcy (6) were chief goal-getters. The 1957 season was a heavy one and Kearsley did well in both the Millor and Stamina Cups. In the semi-final, it was beaten by Greta Austral by 1 to 0. Its eleven comprised R. May, J. Blane, N. Tomlinson, K. O'Brien, R. Darcy, D. Charnock, P. Kerr, D. Powell, C. Sneddon, O. Cresswell, H. Swinton. In the season P. Powell broke the club's record with 40 goals with C. Sneddon on 11.

It was a very successful season. In 1960 Kearsley finished fifth in the N.L. 2nd Division. The club's best goalscorers were D. Powell 17 and J. Rockley 12.

Kearsley filled eighth position in 1961 with E. Wells (14), T. Ly-saghts (7), D. Powell (6), K. Knee (5), best goalscorers.

In 1962, the club remained in the doldrums with D. Powell top scorer on 18.

A revival helped to lift the club to third position in the 2nd Division in 1963. It lost in the semi-final to be knocked out. The club lost ground in 1964, winning only four of its 18 games. Worse was to follow in 1965, for the club took over the woodenspoon with five points from 18 matches. Relegated to 3rd Division, the Kearsley

team entered the semi-finals along with New Lambton, Merewether, Charlestown. In 1967, Kearsley finished fifth in 12 team series. Its home record was excellent with only one loss and two draws in a hard-fought series. Kearsley found it a hard job to regain a place in the 2nd Division for in 1968 it managed to fill the sixth place.

The 3rd Division was replaced by the Amateur League in 1969 and Kearsley concentrated on its junior teams. Kearsley remained in the wilderness till 1977 when under a new system of grading, it entered the 4th Division, finishing tenth in a 20 teams one-round premiership — its 2nd team in ninth place and its 3rds in eighth place. Signs of a revival.

The club had developed quite a group of potential juniors who should do well in the future.

NEATH

It is difficult to trace the birth of soccer in the small mining town of Neath.

A former mining official at the Neath Colliery, the late G. W. Batey, expressed the opinion that junior soccer was first played in Neath just prior to World War I, in 1910.

However, there was always a demand for a senior team as so many outstanding juniors were produced.

Firstly, Mr. F. Pickett Senr. was the club's leading official, holding both the job of secretary and president in the club's infant days.

In 1913, Neath entered the 2nd Grade Newcastle Series with satisfying results. Players used in this season included Hinchcliffe, Hutton, Strang, Pickett, Yates, Purcell, Cusish, Colgate, Medcalf, Chapman, Patrick, Jack, Bamback. Neath had little success from 1914 to 1917 but in 1918 it operated three teams — senior, junior, under-16. In its senior team were Horne, Maloney, Drinkwater, Hutchinson, Oughton, Ryan, Harrison, Roddon, Turner, Evans, Willmott, Cusish.

Main goalscorers were Roddon 6, Turner 4, Evans 4, Willmott 4, Oughton 4.

Early in 1922, a concerted move among all the citizens to lift the club to full senior status began. Neath entered the Gardiner Cup and in its first tie defeated its near rivals Abermain by 3 to 1. It took Kurri all its effort to out Neath in the second round by 3 to 1 at Kurri. However, Neath had satisfactory results in the Coalfields Senior Grade.

In the early weeks of 1923, there were scenes of jubilation in Neath when admission was gained in the Newcastle top grade. Kurri, Weston, Cessnock, West Wallsend, Wallsend and Adamstown supported Neath's appeal, so well presented by George Genders.

The first match against Hamilton resulted in a 2 to 0 win due to goals by Endean and Shippen. The season ended on a high note as Neath beat Cessnock by 1 to 0. In a 9-team league, Neath did well to finish in seventh place. The registered list contained: M. Sternbeck, G. Jones, Hughes, Stoker, Baldwin, Barker, Roddon, Drinkwater, Hunter, Endean, Pockett, Campbell, Shippen, Hancock, Hinchcliffe. Goalscorers were L. Endean 10, G. Hancock 8, J. Drinkwater 6, G. Stoker 4, G. Shippen 4, F. Pockett 3. In the Gardiner Cup, Neath beat Newcastle (4 to 0), Two Blues (2 to 1), but in the third round went down to Sydney (1 to 0). It is fair to state here that Sydney were the beaten finalists after three matches against West Wallsend (Cup winners). In 1924, Neath finished eighth in a ten-team league.

In the Gardiner Cup, it went out by 1 to 0 to the all-powerful Adamstown, but many claimed that a disallowed goal by Auld was unfair to the Meddling Miners.

Their players included Sternbeck, G. Rennex, Baldwin, T. Shakespeare, Hughes, Stokes, Maloney, Auld, Strang, Pockett, Hinchcliffe, Hancock, R. Shakespeare, Jenkins, Roddon. The former Minmi ace "Jock" Auld top scored with 8, Drinkwater 5, Hinchcliffe 5, Strang 4, Baldwin 4.

However, Neath qualified for the Stevenson Cup final, but it went down to Kearsley by 3 to 1 — a typical Coalfields' derby in which both sides won the plaudits of the crowd. A more progressive policy of encouraging prominent youthful players was used for the 1925 season.

Among the newcomers were Alf Henwood, R. Harden, R. Jeffreys, J. Kennedy, J. Bates, R. Bates, J. Hartley, R. Cockburn, J. Purcell, Powell, Wyles, along with the more experienced players. In its eight home games, Neath won six, drew one, lost one — a very creditable effort. In the goalscoring aspect, R. Harden (12), J. Purcell (6), J. Drinkwater (5), J. Hartley (4), R. Bales (4), R. Hughes (4), all did well.

The season 1926 had hardly begun before black clouds of despair hovered around the Neath headquarters. At its annual meeting in February, the N.D.B.F.A. granted senior status to Aberdare — the fifth club on the Coalfields.

The whole fabric of Neath's administration was scarred and official, George Gender, asked the simple question, "How can we carry on as our main financial support comes from the Aberdare area?" Gender was right, for Neath only played three matches when the club folded up and resigned.

Its players were soon snapped up — Henwood, Purcell, Drinkwater went to Weston and Parker, Baldwin, Shakespeare, Hartley to Aberdare. So Neath with its limited population and financial support returned to the junior ranks — a bitter pill for such a stalwart band of soccer lovers.

GRETA AUSTRAL

When World War II ended, the Commonwealth Government opened its doors to overseas migrants. One of the first centres opened to house the intake was the former military camp at Greta. In 1950, the writer, as Assistant State Secretary, was deputed to visit the camp and advise on how to help many who desired to play soccer.

This visit was an instant success and a club was formed, "Greta Austral". Admission to the Northern 2nd Division was immediately granted in the 1952 season. A ground at the camp was made and home and away fixtures provided. It created great sporting enthusiasm in its camp as it provided much-needed sporting entertainment. In its first competitive match at Greta, the locals returned a splendid 6 to 2 win over Dudley. In an 18-match premiership, Greta Austral finished in second place on 28 points, to Cardiff on 34.

In the semi-final, Australs trounced Westy Bluebells by 5 to 0 and then downed Cardiff by 3 to 1 in the final, which drew 1200 spectators, a record for 2nd Division soccer. In the grand final, over 1600 were at Adamstown to see Cardiff take out the honours by 4 to 3 in a tussle which was full of good soccer and excitement from whistle to whistle.

Greta Austral's team in semi-final, final and grand final comprised: A. Salfranko, Z. Gowin, A. Mocher, G. Sodbinov, H. Polovka, V. Antok, B. Szumilas, P. Junowski, V. Tancev, O. Jurish, J. Horenec. Others who played during the season were M. Willich, O. Lacko, E. Szawez, L. Stagmjer, Z. Nellbani, S. Baronov, E. Gregorcyzrvk.

V. Tancev, a former Bulgarian centre, proved a clever goalscorer with 54. Others were Antak 20, P. Janowski 17, B. Szumilas 10, Z. Jurak 7, J. Horenec 7.

In the final of the Northern K.O. Cup, Greta Austral won its first trophy by beating Lake Macquarie by 4 to 1 in the final.

In 1952, the Australs were promoted to the reorganised 1st Division. With stronger opposition, the Australs put up a meritorious effort to finish in sixth place in the 10-team competition.

Again Tancev headed the goalscorers with 36 with left winger Horenec next on 10.

During the season, many of the team's experienced players were released to Sydney clubs.

Some of the less experienced players such as M. Gall, E. Pastero, H. Cessock, M. Gambari, R. Garipoti, F. Dubay, C. Czeneck, O. Favoro and D. Manfroni filled the vacancies.

In the Daniel's Cup, Greta Austral beat Cardiff (1 to 0), Wallsend (7 to 3), Mayfield 3 to 2 (semi-final), but went down in final to East Lakes by 1 to 0 — a worthy effort. Their final team comprised: Salfranko, Gall, Willick, Sodbinov, Mocher, Favoro, Szeweayk, Czeneck, Tancev, Antak, Horenec.

A weakened Austral team took the field in the 1953 season to take out the woodenspoon.

Once again, Tancev top-scored with 12 goals, giving him an aggregate of 102 in three seasons. He was soon snapped up by a Sydney team. With reduced intake at the migrant camp, Greta Austral moved its headquarters to Newcastle where as Newcastle Austral it entered the 2nd Division.

It is worthy to note that two of its star players, Tancev and Mocher, won places in the North's representative teams. Mocher, in particular, proved a great organiser for the game, both in the Greta Camp and in other Northern centres.

When the camp closed, Australs packed their gear and made a new home in Newcastle near Birmingham Gardens where a social complex has been set-up.

GRETA

A public meeting in the old band rotunda in the park in High Street, Greta, held in June 1887 formed the first soccer club north of Newcastle.

There were 41 enthusiasts present including a dozen or more who had played the game overseas. Many were miners who had trekked North from Newcastle where there was a slackness in the coal trade. Peter Bowling was the inaugural secretary with M. North as president and J. Arbuckle as treasurer. The joining fee was two shillings per playing member.

A letter was received from Jack Bromley, treasurer of the Carrington Blackwatch, offering a challenge match to introduce the code to the Greta public.

At the first committee meeting held early in July in the Tattersall's Hotel, it was agreed to accept this challenge.

The name of the club was chosen — Greta Bluebells. Other names suggested were Greta Wanderers and Greta Rangers. It was agreed to entertain the visitors at a sit-down luncheon and the aid of local ladies was sought.

On 5th July, the visitors arrived early and were given a civic welcome by the Mayor of Greta, Dr. G. J. Walker and Mr. G. Batey, the Town Clerk.

It was a real gala day for the surrounding area and 500 gathered around the playing area in Greta Park.

Greta proved too fast for the opposition and after leading by 2 to 0 at half-time, ran out winners by 6 to 0 with Bowling (2), Stevenson, Bevan, Simpson and Arbuckle doing the scoring. The teams who played in that historical match lined up as follows:

Greta Bluebells (white shirt with blue sash) — H. Isles, F. Keenan, W. Clarke, W. Jones, N. O'Donnell, R. Arbuckle, P. Bowling, Wm. Stevenson, S. Bevan, W. Simpson, S. Richardson.

Carrington Blackwatch (black shirt, gold sash) — R. McQuinn, W. Kerr, T. Lindsay, R. Smith, R. Blackley, A. Wilson, C. Gourlay, C. Glasgow, C. Currey, W. McNeal, J. Bromley.

Before the winter ended, Greta showed further improvement by holding the famous Minmi Rangers to a 3 to 2 defeat on Minmi's home ground.

Peter Bowling was Greta's star. It is worth noting that Bowling later became a leading miners' advocate. After the 1909 strike for the abolition of the afternoon shift (3 p.m. to 11 p.m.), Bowling, along with four other mining officials, were sent to gaol for their efforts in prolonging the strike.

In 1900 the Greta Cameos Club was formed by the enthusiastic North family and entered the Newcastle competition. Matches were played each fortnight and the club won 7, drew 2, lost 9 of its matches, finishing in fifth position. Bill Waugh (10) and Ern Pickin (8) were chief scorers. Registered players included: E. Allanson, Garnet Hodges, Geo. Hodges, J. Beatty, Jack Hodges, F. North, R. North, N. Chappell, E. Pickin, Waugh, W. Dempsey, J. Wholan, T. Chappell, W. Dimmock, E. Minto, J. Jackson, C. Hogan, J. North, G. Reeves, J. Hanley, J. Henderson.

During World War I, the Whitburn Stars came into existence and played in the S.M. senior grade.

In the 1919 season, Greta entered a 5-teams competition, but shortage of players plus financial difficulties did not allow them to do themselves justice. However, their goalie, "Scotty" Gilchrist, proved a real star. He was so active and pugnacious that he became the most popular 'keeper in the North. Some of his long clearance punts were amazing while his punching in goal-mouth melees often brought fear into the minds of opposing forwards. He later went to Wallsend where he won representative honours.

After several years of continual struggle plus unemployment at the Whitburn and Anvil Creek Mines, the club disbanded but the game was continued by local juniors.

This club won a niche in soccer history as its eleven consisted on many occasions of ten Hodges and a goalie, Bill Lennard, formerly of Kurri Kurri. Later a nephew, "Wedge" Durie was included. The stars were: Bill Lennard, Perce Hodges, Alec Hodges, George "Doodle" Hodges, Jack Hodges Snr., Garnet Hodges, Henry Hodges, Jack Hodges (son of Jack Snr.), Alf "Sonny" Hodges, Fred Hodges, Artie Hodges, W. Durie.

Later, when Fred (inside left) retired, his place was taken by Alfie (son of Alf). Left winger Alf Hodges won interdistrict honours

in 1920. In 1917, six of the Hodges won a six-a-side series at Weston while in 1919, the same six won a similar honour at Adamstown in a patriotic series.

Since 1920, only junior soccer has been played at Greta. The club produced some very fine players in Bob McKinnon, Win Kelleher, "Wingy" Lewis, Alby Goldent, Bert Palmer, Tom Heuston, Len Bates, Wal Skillicorn, Perce Hodges Jnr., K. Bell, H. Kedwell, L. Siddens, F. Nevin, M. Nevin, J. Picken, J. Wholert, C. Short, E. Short, R. Crawley, E. O'Donnell, A. Cruickshanks.

PELAW MAIN

A major trek of miners from the Newcastle fields to Pelaw Main where hundreds of unemployed miners found work at Pelaw Main and Stanford Merthyr collieries which both enjoyed rapid development.

Pelaw Main Soccer Club was formed in March, 1903 when the inaugural meeting was held on a vacant block of land near Gillon's General Store. Officials elected were — President, J. Hanlon; Secretary, Clyde Senior; Treasurer, J. Wilson.

Colours adopted were white shirt with 3-inch red sash.

Playing members were enrolled at two shillings and others at one shilling. A Ladies' Committee was formed and plans made to secure a playing strip.

Working bees prepared the ground which was situated close to the Public School, which had been opened a few months earlier. The following players were registered: D. Jones, F. Dunn, J. Wilson, B. Finny, Clyde Senior, Cyril Senior, Sid Senior, T. Reece, J. Gilmore, J. Hanley, S. Dumbleton.

Playing in the second grade, the team opened its home programme by playing a 1 all draw against Our Boys. J. Wilson scored the locals' goal. Other matches were v Rhondda (lost 1-2), Teralba (won 2-1), Broadmeadow Federals (draw 1-1), East Greta (draw 2 all), Trilbys (lost 0-1).

Before the 1904 season opened, the ground had been enlarged to 100 yards in length by 70 yards in width. Drainage at both goal ends was improved.

Club colours were changed to white shirt with 3-inch yellow strip.

Registered players were J. Manning, J. Morrison, T. Harris, C. Senior, F. Chappell, Sid Senior, T. Jones, J. Henderson, G. Promage, T. Armstrong, A. King, A. Whan, Cyril Senior, G. Turnbull, P. Stone, S. Waugh, J. Dyson, J. Ballard, W. Neil, W. Jones, J. Johnson, W. Turnbull. The founding of clubs at nearby Kurri Kurri created much local rivalry. At times there was a constant interchange of players.

Results of matches played in 1904 were — Lost 2-0 v Heddon Greta at Pelaw Main; drew Teralba 1 all at Teralba; lost 1-0 v Broad-

meadow at Pelaw Main; drew 1 all v Shamrocks at Pelaw Main; drew 2 all v Kurri Kurri at Kurri Kurri.

Broadmeadow ran out medal winners by beating Pelaw Main in final by 1 to 0. However, after years of mediocre success, honours went to the mining centre in the 1907 season. The Newcastle controllers decided to abandon their senior competition and substitute an All Aged Premiership as only three senior clubs entered.

The main aim of the executive was to create pockets of interest from which future senior teams would develop.

Ten teams entered — Adamstown Rosebuds, Broadmeadow Royal Arthur, Cessnock, East Greta, Pelaw Main, Wallsend Rovers, Wallsend Royals, West Wallsend and Weston — four from the developing Maitland Coalfield pleased the organisers. At the end of the series, Pelaw Main (leaders) and Wallsend Royals (runners-up) met in the final at the Broadmeadow Showground.

It was an excellent game with the scores 2 all at 90 minutes. However, in the extra time period, Pelaw Main excelled to win by 4 to 2 to take the first major soccer trophy to the Coalfields. The winning eleven comprised (red shirts with green braces) — Bondi Neal, A. Wilson, J. Hodges, J. Morrison, D. Jones, W. Jones, T. Crowley, J. Crowley, J. Davies, D. Shepherd, W. Mackay.

Scorers for Pelaw Main were: Davies (2), Shepherd (1), W. Jones (1).

A trade depression and the long coal strike of 1909 sent the club into recess. Many of its star players joined the nearby Kurri Kurri and Weston clubs.

However, in 1916, a strong junior club sprung up to cater for local players. This soon produced a crop of experienced performers.

Interest in the game grew and in 1918 Pelaw Main entered the S.M. Senior Grade. Under the astute coaching of a former overseas player, J. Curley was readily welcomed and the team's display soon revealed an attractive pattern of play not seen before.

The public welcomed this as the war years had cut off all sporting entertainment. As the season developed, the crowd grew in numbers. By the end of August it was apparent that the two "Mains", Abermain and Pelaw Main, were headed for the final.

In mid-September these two old rivals clashed for the medals at the Homestead. The crowd, which was very vocal and partisan, numbered 2000. Three encroachments by excited spectators caused the referee to stop play on several occasions. Fortunes ebbed and flowed for over an hour and the result lay in the balance. A strong assault by Abermain saw a long clearance by Yates put his team on the attack. A stray ball 20 yards out fell at Curley's feet and he quickly netted the vital goal. In the next 15 minutes each team scored.

In the dying stages, "Washer" Brown made two daring saves and final scores ended at 2 to 1 in Pelaw Main's favour.

The scenes which followed the final whistle are still vividly recalled by old-timers.

Even the calm Councillor Jim Butler ordered Georgie Muir "to take the team to the Empire for a pint of bitter and put it on my account".

Never were refreshments more worthily won.

Even the three short blasts of the Pelaw Main pit whistle at 5 pm on that eventful Saturday brought the glad tidings to the mere handful of "stay-at-homes". The winning team consisted of: "Washer" Brown, Stan Davidson, "Buck" Yates, Sid Oliver, "Yacum" Peters, Roy Burns, Jack Curley, Pet Lennard, Jack Hill, Geordie Muir, Jack Bower.

Let's pass on to season 1926, when Pelaw Main and Weston thrilled a crowd of 1200 in the Reserve Grade final. When 90 minutes were up the scores were 3 all. In extra time, winger Jim Bellamy crashed in the winner after making a solo run of 40 yards. The teams in that match were:—

Pelaw Main: A. Browning, T. Ridley, L. Rees, B. Scott, W. Allen, J. Nicholls, A. Rees, J. Stewart, B. Hinman, F. Paterson, S. Hawke.

Weston: Turner, Butler, Smith, Rogerson, E. Williams, J. Paterson, J. Bellamy, Tait, Bryce, J. Williams, J. Marrcott.

Scorers were: *P.M.* S. Hawke 2, Hinman 1. *Weston* J. Bellamy 3, Bryce 1.

Pelaw Main had another glorious year again in 1928 — year when State League kicked off.

A much better trained senior side turned out many fine wins in a series, with Bellbird and Pelaw Main clashing in the final at Homestead.

Bellbird was a clear-cut favourite as their centre Jock Pettigrew, a professional from Armidale (Scotland) had netted 29 goals for the "Blues" — while Bill Price (20) and Blue Hinman (17) for the "Mains" during the season. The later defence of "Fido" Stewart, George Peel, Peter Simons, Mick Allen and Ellis Reid played to a set pattern and blocked Pettigrew out of the match. The only goal was scored by Jackie Stewart, late in the second half, to give *P.M.* the medals and Cup.

The team comprised: J. Nichols, W. Stewart, G. Peel, P. Simons, E. Reid, S. Oliver, J. Stewart, S. Kidd, J. Hinman, W. Price, Jim Gibson, M. Allen, Curly Robinson, Mat Last, Tom Bell, Sam White, Jim Bain, T. Bruce — all appearing during the series.

A new ground with a first class playing surface was built and fenced along Hebburn Street. To honour such an achievement the

N.D.B.F.A. staged the Reserve Grade final there, when Kurri Kurri defeated Wallsend by 3 to 1. The gate receipts were £90, with free admission for ladies and children.

At the end, Councillor Jim Butler presented the Harvey and Middleton Cups to Kurri's skipper, Sol Jenkins. Since that event the club has produced many soccer stars who joined other clubs. To mention a few — Hughie Workman, Dave Nesbitt, Johnny Barr, Herb Barr and others. George Muir also excelled at cricket, iron quoits and was quite a success as a cornerman in the Vaudeville set-up — a really popular personality.

BELLBIRD

Competitive soccer began in 1926 as a result of the enthusiasm for soccer due to the visit of the English professional team to Cessnock in 1925.

Bellbird entered 3rd grade, U16 and U14 teams in the S.M. competitions. In 1927, its entries consisted of 3rd grade, U18 and U16. 1928 and 1929 saw the number of entries increased to four — viz. 1928 seniors, U19, U16 and U14. It was, however, in 1930 that the "Bells" team on that occasion comprised: Alderson, McQueen, Jenkins, Edwards, Banner, T. Shakespeare, Ferguson, Collins, Cummings, J. Shakespeare, Davies.

Bellbird had previously been beaten finalists in 1928 — down to Pelaw Main at Weston. A Scot forward from Armidale, Jock Pettigrew set up a club record of 25 goals in the season. Very little is known of the club's activities till 1943 when Bellbird joined a Coalfields League. Of 14 matches played, it won 5, drew 7 and lost 2. Among its goalscorers were J. Bamback (14), R. Edmunds (5), A. Randall (3), C. Cook (3), A. McKendry (2), J. Dunncliffe (2), W. George (2), S. Parkes (2).

In the Maitland sectional final at Weston, Bellbird went down to Kurri by 3 to 2 in a thrilling match only won in the 89th minute.

Bellbird's eleven comprised L. McKendry, J. Evans, W. McKendry, J. Rankin, S. Parkes, R. Edmunds, R. Dunncliffe, J. Bamback, A. McDonald, A. Rankin, G. Simpson.

Lack of scoring power gave Bellbird a poor record in 1944 when it finished eighth in a nine-team Northern League competition. Of the 15 matches played, it lost 11, won 3 and drew 1. Its goalscorers were: S. Myles 10, J. Bamback 5, R. Edmunds 4, R. Dunncliffe 3, A. Simpson 2. In the State Cup, the "Bells" beat Dudley by 3 to 1, but were knocked out in the second round by Kearsley at Kearsley by 3 to 1.

In 1948, Bellbird joined a reformed 2nd Division Northern League.

It qualified for the final but went down to Cardiff by 2 to 1 at Wallsend.

Its eleven comprised N. Evans, S. McKendry, L. Crawley, B. Davis, R. Dunncliffe, F. Price, N. Crawley, J. Bamback, L. Simpson, A. Thomson, R. Edmunds. Reserves were G. Waugh, H. Vernon, H. Campbell, T. Sommerville. During the season goalscorers were: J. Bamback 21, A. Thomson 14, L. Simpson 10, R. Edmunds 6, R. Dunncliffe 4, H. Campbell 4.

Then followed a period of stagnation due to the short-sighted policy of the Northern Directors in limiting entry to Reserve Grade policy of the Northern Directors in limiting entry to Reserve Grade clubs — a policy which left the smaller to recognised State League clubs — a policy which left the smaller clubs like Bellbird, Paxton, Kearsley, Aberdare, Greta Main without a suitable competition. This ban ended in 1956 when Bellbird entered a Northern League competition.

In a 7-team series, Bellbird won 5, lost 5, drew 4. In the Northern League Cup, it created a club record by defeating Kurri by 10 to 1 in the first round. However, it did not proceed in this series. Its best scorers were J. McLaren 10, A. Thomson 10, M. Sternbeck 7, A. Radnidge 4, S. Parkes 4, W. Burgoyne 3, C. McDonald 3, A. Stevenson 3.

In the premiership semi-final it bowed out to Blacksmith by 10 to 2. Its eleven included B. McKendry, A. Thomson, N. McKendry, A. Radnidge, A. Mitchell, R. Carmichael, G. Stevenson, J. McLaren, A. Sternbeck, S. Parkes, W. Burgoyne.

There was a break in club activities till 1963, when the "Bells" entered a recently established 3rd Division. Of the 18 matches played, Bellbird won 11, lost 3, drew 4, finishing in third position, a highly creditable performance.

In 1964, Bellbird excelled by finishing second to Hamilton Azzurri — 2 points only off after 22 games. It scored 80 goals to opponents' 28. It remained undefeated in 11 home games. In the semi-final it defeated Toronto Diggers by 3 to 1. After a 2 all draw in the final against South Wallsend, the "Bells" went down in replay by 5 to 2. During the season, R. Jones (12), D. Davies (11), D. Glenn (11) were the top scorers.

Its success won for it promotion to the 2nd Division in 1965. Weak defensive play saw it in ninth position while its second string was listed eighth. Worse followed in 1966 and Bellbird took out the woodenspoon with only 11 points in 18-match series.

In 1967, Bellbird fought back with commendable flack to take out the flag in the 3rd Division. Its record was a very proud one — played 22, won 21, lost 0, drew 1; goals for 114, goals against 24; points, 43 out of a possible 44. Its home record was played 11, won 11, lost 0, drew 0. Goals for 60, goals against 11. Its 14 to 2 and 18 to 0 wins over R.A.A.F. were club records.

Unfortunately individual records were not available, but Davies, Glenn and Dunne all passed the 20 goal record. In 1968, Bellbird operated among stronger opposition in the 2nd Division. It shared eighth place with Dudley and Jesmond.

A new Amateur League (North) was inaugurated in 1969 and Bellbird did very well to finish second to South Cardiff. It scored 89 goals to opponents' 20.

In the 2nd Division in 1971 the "Bells" took out the wooden-spoon with eight points, conceding 105 goals to opposition marksmen.

Another poor season in 2nd Division in 1972, Bellbird finishing last in the three grades. Such a drubbing sent the club into a senior recess.

Concentration was then turned to local juniors.

ABERMAIN

For its size, the township of Abermain has won honours in many types of sport.

In its infancy, the town had a strong rifle club, cricket club, cycling, rugby as well as soccer.

It is fair comment to say that the soccer club lived in the shadows of the greatness of Weston. During the years, Abermain has produced a big crop of round ball stars — players who after completing success in the junior circles, were lured away to other senior clubs where they rose to great heights.

To mention a few — the dainty but speedy Jack Manion, whose attacking play was described by one journalist as "smooth as quicksilver", Jim "Nigger" Kemp, Ern Kemp, Crabbie McCroarey, Aub Teece, Jim Porteus, Ducky Henwood and many others.

An old record book tells of the birth of soccer in Abermain in April 1908 — a meeting called by a group of miners in a vacant block — later to be gazetted as Abermain Recreation Reserve. The first secretary was Jas. McIntyre, a former Scot junior whose enthusiasm for the game won general admiration in the growing town. He combed the "pit tops" and forwarded the registration list to Newcastle where it was listed as "3rd grade". First colours were white shirt with 2-inch green sash. The full list contained Jas. Kemp Snr., Evan Davis, Oscar Mullally, Dave Russell, Bill Burt, Jim Lobley, Bill Parkinson, John Grills, Percy Grills, Jim Devon, Tom Corrigan, John Outram, Chas. Kendrick, Bob Russell, John Johnson, Ben Yates, Bill Thomas, Bill Wailes, Bob Prescott, Jack Corrigan, Tom McDonald, Charlie Wilson, Jono Robinson, Geo. Ridley, Bill Drury, Joe Hedley, Hugh Devon and Jas. McIntyre. The first match at Abermain was against Pelaw Main, which won by 2 to 0. The visitors were royally entertained at a sit-down meal where the amber ale ran out far too quickly.

Bob Skilling of Kurri was the referee. In its first season, the team recorded — played 10, won 2, lost 6, drew 2; goals for 22, goals against 31.

It is very unfortunate that one cannot secure club records. However the Abermain Club entered an All Aged XI and an Under-18 years XI in the Newcastle competition, but no honours were gained. In 1918 the All Aged, Under-18 and Under-16 (Tom Tits) had successful seasons.

In the All Aged section, Abermain pressed Pelaw Main for season's honours. These old rivals clashed in the final at the Homestead with Pelaw Main winning a grand game by 2 to 1. In the closing minutes, Pelaw Main scored the vital goal. The club colours were blue. The Abermain XI included: F. McGoldrick, J. Kennedy, P. Barker, T. Jeffreys, W. Hall, T. Outram, T. Corrigan, R. Bower, E. Williams, T. Scott, R. Peel; reserves: P. Kemp, S. Bailey, S. Richardson. In the Under-18 years Abermain qualified for the semi-finals but went down to Weston by 2 to 1. Its team comprised Coutts, Ross, Baty, Robinson, Shaw, Chappell, Wilson, Thomas, Barker, O'Connell, Endeen. The "Tom Tits" won the district title with such players as G. Grant, Horn, McCroarey, R. McNaughton, E. Junor, G. Junor, J. O'Brien, Smith, Kennedy, Striker, Hall, O. O'Brien, Downs, McGoldrick.

In season 1922, there was a revival in interest and Abermain entered the Gardiner Cup for the first time. In the first round it met near neighbours Neath and suffered defeat by 3 to 1 in a very exciting tie, for with five minutes left the scores were 1 all. A brace of last-minute goals by Horne and Pockett sealed the "Mains" fate. In 1923, the promotion of Neath to senior ranks greatly affected interest at Abermain. However, several brilliant juniors in J. Kemp, J. Manion, J. Porteus, D. Henwood, E. Kemp and A. Teece were unearthed.

The club was proud to stage on the Abermain Park the South Maitland XI v Queensland on 2nd July when the locals won by 2 to 1.

Over 1000 saw this representative match, which was organised by a local official, Mr. L. Penniment. In 1927, a combined Abermain-Neath eleven entered the Stevenson Cup and won its way into the semi-final, where it crashed to Kearsley by 4 to 0. Their team comprised R. Morgan, A. Jackson, A. Baldwin, R. Hughes, J. Porteus, R. O'Brien, E. Jeffries, F. Turner, J. Manion, J. Kemp, J. Drinkwater and F. Horne, the last mentioned being the most consistent scorer with 11 goals.

In 1928 the club fielded a strong Under-18 years combination. Little is known of the club's activities for the period of 1929 to 1943 when during the State League breakaway, it formed a senior club in the South Maitland area. Among the regulars were J. Mathers,

A. Wiseman, C. Kidd, J. Olwer, E. Leighton, G. Stewart, G. Heley, W. Williams. Mathers was the main goalscorer.

Abermain hit the high spot in 1948 when its senior team beat Aberdare in the Stevenson Cup final at Cessnock by 5 to 2. Their winning combination comprised: C. Blair, T. Jurd, W. Langlands, M. Yates, E. Kemp, J. Crossley, R. Wright, G. Tomlinson, R. Howard, G. Lamb, T. Haywood. The season's best scorers were Tomlinson (10), R. Howard (10) and G. Lamb (8).

A more stabilised Abermain entry went into the Northern League in 1949. The team won 7, lost 6, drew 2 of the games played. Players used included J. McLaren, R. Wright, E. Kemp, G. Tomlinson, D. Martin, J. Wallace, M. Yates, F. Callaghan, M. Reay, A. Randell, K. Williams, L. Mather, G. Laverick, C. Teasdale, A. Baulks, L. Burnett, E. Craig, W. McKay, W. Barker, J. Ackroyd, W. Longlands, R. Williams, A. Sneddon, G. Lamb, A. Orchard, J. Patrick, C. Beverley, J. Crawford.

Tomlinson (16), McLaren (12) were top scorers. The first mentioned created new club record by netting five goals v Lake Macquarie.

In State Cup, Abermain were koyed by Kurri 2 goals to 1.

Abermain's persistence won it a place in the 1949 Northern League semi-finals.

In a hard-fought first half against the minor premiers Cardiff, the "Mains" did well with 1 all at the interval.

In the second half Cardiff scored 4 goals to win by 5 to 2.

The Abermain team which was on duty that day comprised: F. Callaghan, G. Tomlinson, G. Martin, J. Wallace, E. Kemp (Capt.), R. Wright, E. Laverick, J. McLaren, L. Mather, K. Williams, L. Burnett.

Old-timers still hope for a return of senior soccer to Abermain. May their wish and dream come true for as a sport community Abermain deserves the best.

PAXTON

As in other areas, when coal development came to Paxton so did soccer.

For several seasons junior teams thrived in this growing area. In season 1944 Paxton entered a team in the Northern League, which formed when a breakaway State League was created in Sydney.

Its lack of experienced players was its drawback. However, Hughie Orr took control and led the goalscorers with 12; others were M. Blane 10, J. Hodges 6, A. Thomson 5, D. Marshall 5, R. Charnock 3, J. Orr 3.

However, in the Stevenson Cup series Paxton beat Bellbird 7 to nil and Kearsley 6 to 5 in semi-final. In the final against Kurri at Gould Park, Paxton held the Tricolours to a 1 all draw till the last 10 minutes when Kurri ran away to win by 5 to 1. Paxton's eleven: P. Martens, J. Evans, J. Wilson, R. Thomas, J. Orr, J. Hodges, D. Marshall, M. Blane, H. Orr, J. Marshall, D. Charnock.

Paxton's next appearance in the Northern League was in 1948. Among its players were R. M. McGregor, J. Jobson, R. Jobson, R. Thomas, C. Hindmarsh, J. Sternbeck, A. Morton, J. Evans, J. Hodges, M. Morton, A. Peachman, D. Marshall, N. Crane, M. Martin, D. Blane, R. Witherall, L. Burgess, R. Morton, M. Charnock, K. Bridge, M. Blane, B. Orr, N. Ruddon, W. Phillips.

R. Thomas 10, J. Sternbeck 9, N. Crane 7, M. Charnock 6, were top scorers. Oldtime officials of the club are always keen to tell you about the greatest win in the club's short and varied career. In 1943, Paxton was drawn against its near neighbours Cessnock at Cessnock. On 29th May a crowd of 450 assembled to see the "Miners' Derby". What a Cup tie! Thrills and spills every minute. Cessnock led by 2 to 1 — goals to Nimmo and McLaren (Cessnock) and Dave Evans (Paxton). With 20 seconds to go Evans crashed in the equaliser. But now to Paxton's greatest Cup effort. In the replay at Paxton, hundreds assembled to see the shock of the season, for Paxton ran out winners by 7 to 1. Goalscorers for winners were Hugh Orr (3), Joe Orr (2) and Mick Blane (2). It was a night for celebrations in true Scottish style in Paxton.

In that series Merewether beat Paxton in the semi-final by 5 to 4.

Little is known of the code's happenings in the last decade but there is every likelihood of a revival amongst the juniors.

HEBBURN

A few months after developmental work on the surface of the Hebburn Colliery had progressed, a group of workmen approached the colliery manager, Mr. R. Harle, for permission to use a cleared portion of land as a football field. This was readily granted and Mr. Harle said, "I agree and hope that this area will be used for other sports."

Soon many of the workers engaged in football practice after work. Many were players from Newcastle.

During late years of World War I, junior soccer was played on the Hebburn pitch.

In 1919 a junior team, "Tom Tits", registered and included the following players: G. Grant, Horne, J. McCroarey, R. McNaughton, R. O'Brien, E. Junor, G. Junor, Smith, Kennedy, Striker, Hall, R. O'Brien, McGoldrick, Downes.

In 1918, a surplus of senior players in the Weston area allowed Hebburn to enter South Maitland senior ranks in quest of the Hennings Cup. Players included Kell, Tweddle, W. Snedden, J. Snedden, Russell, Shields, Patterson, Whitley, Logan, Hawke, Anderson and Duxfield (Capt.). Their first match at Hebburn was against Whitburn Stars — ended in a 1 all draw. Same Hawke, a keen devotee to soccer, scored the first senior goal on Hebburn's ground.

During the season goalscorers were J. Duxfield 8, S. Hawke 6, J. Logan 4, Paterson 4, Anderson 4, Shields 3, J. Snedden 3, W. Snedden 3.

Hebburn showed improved form in 1919 with the same players. Goalscorers were J. Duxfield 5, Patterson 5, J. Snedden 5, Logan 4, S. Hawke 4, Anderson 4, Shields 3, Russell 3, Bates 2. Progress was reported in 1920 when the club entered the Gardiner Cup series.

In its first tie, it played a 3 all draw v Rothbury, won replay by 2 to 1 but were knocked out by Weston in second round by 4 to nil. During the season players for Hebburn included: W. Snedden, J. Bates, A. Outridge, J. Richardson, R. Bates, J. McCroarey, R. McNaughton, G. Grant, W. Bates, J. Davies. A youthful discovery, J. "Crabbie" McCroarey was top scorer on 15, R. Bates (5), McNaughton (5), R. Logan (4) also scored goals. In 1921, the senior section of the club disbanded and players were snapped up by the stronger clubs. Juniors continued playing under the banner of the S.M.F.A. In 1923, the 3rd graders beat Greta in the district final by 2 to 1. This success prompted the club to re-enter the local senior grade in 1924 when a six-team competition proved a big success.

It appears that the club's last appearance of any importance was in the Stevenson Cup when it was outed by Aberdare by 2 to 1. One of the Bates brothers scored the club's last goal in senior matches.

Right from the first, the club colours were pale blue with a yellow star on left breast.

Hebburn's secretary in its pioneering days, Billy Tweddle insisted that Hebburn's colours were worn by Weston United when it won the State title in 1918.

EAST GRETA

Early in April, 1901, a group of 22 miners met in the Cricket Ground near the East Greta Railway Station to form a Soccer Club.

The inaugural officials were: President, Mr. R. Cartwright; Secretary, Mr. T. Cantwell; Treasurer, Mr. A. Coulton.

The following players were registered in the third grade Newcastle competition: R. Cartwright, W. Muir, A. Coulton, R. Parkes, R. Waugh, Seaton, A. Stagg, C. Stagg, J. Downie, T. Cantwell, F.

Genge, T. Dodd, J. Porter, W. Coulton, G. Rosser, J. Currie, J. Cook, J. Jones, W. Lindsay, W. Miller, A. Parker, J. Ballard.

The first match played at East Greta was against Greta. It drew a crowd of 500 and was won by the locals by 3 to 2. A return match at Greta saw the result reversed for Greta won by 3 to 2. These games were great social events for both centres.

In 1902, the club had T. Cantwell as secretary and used black with gold hoops as its colours. New players included J. Lord, J. Smith, M. Smith, H. Jowett, W. Jowett, A. Lavender, L. Bunn, W. Hinman and C. Cartwright.

The club's home ground proved too small and visiting teams often complained about the uneven surface.

At the annual meeting in March, 1903, the club decided to join with a new club at Heddon Greta, where there was a much better ground near the local hotel. During the 1916-1920 period, the club fielded junior teams including the Hoskins, Tiedman, Jowett brothers and all top-notch players.

HEDDON GRETA

The Heddon Greta Club was founded in March, 1904 at a meeting near Pike's Saw Mill.

There was a deputation from East Greta and their application for membership was received.

There were 42 at the meeting and officials elected were: President, J. Cantwell; Secretary, Joe Hodges, Treasurer, J. Dunne.

Colours chosen were white shirt with black ribbon.

It was reported that new clubs had been formed at Pelaw Main and at Kurri Kurri.

A working bee was formed to extend the practice area near the Heddon Greta Hotel on the north side of the Maitland Road.

Players registered included: E. Cox, C. Picken, J. Hodges, M. Cook, E. Picken, J. Jones, T. Smith, F. Williams, R. Young, J. Lord, J. Nasen, N. Barker, J. Allen, F. Blumer, J. Dunne.

The opening match, Heddon Greta v Kurri Kurri, proved a real local derby. Heddon won by 4 to 2 after being in arrears by 2 to 1 at half-time. Chris Picken and Ned Cox were outstanding for the locals while J. Peters, H. Turnbull and P. Charlton excelled for Kurri.

Two weeks later an unexpected crowd of 400 packed the sidelines to see Pelaw Main and Heddon play a 2 all draw. Pelaw Main's goalie, Bondi Neil stopped two penalties. Thrice the referee, Harry Speers of Dudley, held up play as spectators crowded the visitors' goalmouth while stones were aimed at the 'keeper. Play became heated in the final 20 minutes and fights broke out among partisan fans. Player Chris Picken, also a first grade Rugby star, remarked, "I was glad to hear the final whistle."

Strange but true, referee Speers was cheered by both teams and many of the crowd.

Years later, when living at Kurri Kurri, Harry remarked — "Yes, the strangest game I ever refereed. I gave a penalty to each side but when Neil fisted Picken's drive over the bar pandemonium broke forth."

But "at the tasty banquet after the match we were all good friends," concluded Harry Speers.

In 1906, the Heddon Rooks entered a strong combination in the 3rd grade. Secretary Joe Hodges enrolled quite a few "outsiders" to strengthen the locals.

Despite its apparent strength the team only achieved moderate success as its away record was poor.

Among the registered players were: Wes Williams, Bert Oglethorpe, Bill Morgan, R. Hume, Arch Lewis, Tom Doyle, C. Younger, Ted Jackson, Jim Sneddon, G. Oakley, R. Squires, R. Robson, Geo. Muir, Bill Yates, Sam Yates. But the club only lasted three seasons. The local mine was closed permanently after a series of serious gas fires made it unsafe for working. Many of the soccer players moved to other centres in search of permanent employment.

ROTHBURY

When World War I ceased, a soccer club was formed at Rothbury where coal was being developed.

The club entered the All Aged Competition controlled by the S.M.S.A.

Due to travelling difficulties, the team performed moderately. It qualified for the final but was beaten by Hebburn by 4 to 1.

Chief scorers in its initial season were — P. Lennard (12), J. Hodge (4), N. Tiedman (4), J. Jarrett (4), P. Hodges (3).

Players in the final were: Lewis, N. Tiedman, Hoskins, W. Lennard, E. Searson, W. Durie, J. Jarrett, Chippendale, Edmunds, P. Lennard, R. Lennard (12), W. Jarrett.

The club continued in season 1920 with moderate success. The loss of the Lennard brothers to Cessnock weakened it and it failed to appear in 1921.

In 1920, it entered the Gardiner Cup and after playing a 3 all draw with Hebburn, it failed in the replay by 2 to 1.

When coal ceased being produced at the Rothbury Colliery, interest in soccer waned considerably.

STANFORD METHYR

A problem arose in the Kurri area where there were many juniors crying out for competitive soccer. The Kurri club could not finance all these demands.

Hence a strong junior club sprang up at the end of 1920 in nearby Stanford Merthyr. In 1922, teams were entered in the S.M. Association — in 3rd Grade, Under-18 Years, Under-16 Years and Under-14 Years.

A high standard of play was achieved and two teams won final honours.

One of the outstanding players was State Junior representative, Len Jacobs, a gifted defender. However, he decided to concentrate on his musical talent and gave up soccer. He became one of the Coalfields' most gifted jazz pianists.

GRETA MAIN

In 1948 a new club to the west of Cessnock, Greta Main, entered the Coalfield League of seven teams.

Results proved that the club lacked experienced players — winning only two matches.

Among its players were J. Dryden, J. Hoggan, D. Harris, C. Rowley, N. Jacobs, W. Mowatt, A. Harris, J. Wilson, A. Wilson, A. Croft, W. Ingram, W. Smith, K. Davey, W. Farmer, L. Millington.

Dryden was top scorer with 12 goals.

MILLFIELD

Another new club sprung up in 1948 at Millfield where junior soccer had developed quickly.

In the Coalfields League, Millfield secured 11 points with its 6 to 2 win over Aberdare — its best effort.

A. Brennan created a club record of 5 goals in that match. In all, he secured 15 goals in the season. A. Orr on 7 was next.

Among the players used were — K. Brennan, J. Burke, A. Orr, M. Martens, F. Smith, Mel Martins, A. Day, F. Sternbeck, A. Brennan, N. T. Brennan, R. Mitchell, K. Croft, J. Orr, N. Sweetman, J. Tiedman, R. Martins, Arnold Brennan.

KURRI NORTH END

Due to the efforts of former referee, Harry Speers, and George "Pongo" Grant, a strong junior club was formed in the western sector of the town. A new ground was created and the club operated successfully for seven consecutive seasons.

In 1925 — 3rd Grade, Under-16, Under-14 teams operated.

In 1926 — 3rd Grade, Under-21, Under-16, Under-14.

In 1927 — 3rd Grade, Under-18, Under-16.

In 1928 — Reserve, Under-18, Under-14.

In 1929 — Senior grade.

In 1930 — Under-16 grade.

In 1931 — 3rd Grade.

Many honours were won by these teams. With the coming of the State League in 1928, interest gradually diminished and the club folded up at the end of 1931.

SAWYERS GULLY

In 1925, there were juniors in the Weston area looking for match play. A group of enthusiasts headed by Mel Nicholls founded the Sawyers Gully Club.

Its record included —

1925 — 3rd, Under-21, Under-16.

1926 — 3rd, Under-21.

1927 — 3rd, Under-18, Under-14.

1928 — Reserve Grade, Under-14.

In 1929 the club folded up and joined forces with the Weston Juniors.

CESSNOCK WEST END

This progressive club was founded in 1925 when it entered Reserve Grade, 3rd, Under-21; 1926 — 3rd, Under-21 years, Under-14 years; 1927 — 3rd, Under-18 years, Under-14 years.

With the advent of the State League in 1928, the club joined forces with the Cessnock Juniors.

Another junior club, Cessnock Rovers, only remained in existence for two seasons.

The records also show a South Cessnock and Cessnock Angels with a short existence.

It is worth noting that Cessnock West End were beaten finalists in the 1925 Senior, losing to Kearsley by 4 to 0. Their XI comprised A. Horne, L. Gibson, A. Matchett, S. Mitchell, J. Jarvie, J. Rutherford, P. Barnes, R. Stevenson, A. Ferguson, T. Turner, J. Fredian.

MUSWELLBROOK

Junior soccer has been played in Muswellbrook since coalmining began in the late twenties. However, under the guidance of Perce Brace and John Betts the "Brooks" entered the Northern Federation in 1973. Lack of training facilities and travelling were hurdles to overcome.

In seasons 1974-75, the club struggled against great odds. In 1976, it entered the 3rd division with increased success. The same could describe its activities in 1977.

The club deserves every praise for its efforts to keep the soccer flag flying in that new area.

SINGLETON

With the development of new coal deposits and the military camp in the Singleton area, teams were entered in the 4th division in 1977.

The most pleasing aspect was the club's third string of young players, who finished in twelfth place in a 20-team series. This augurs well for the future. Already in 1978, the "Singers" have shown success on the field and greater stability in its administration.

PERSONALITY PARADE: BEANEY AND OTHERS

BILL BEANEY

Bill Beaney has been aptly, but correctly, called the "King of Coalfields Soccer" and to this fine sportsman, this book is dedicated. Years of devoted service began in 1914, when he came to Weston from the north-east of England and ended in 1976 when he returned to Peterlee in the County of Durham to live in retirement. Letters are still received by his friends showing retained interest in Australian soccer as well as a vital support for Sunderland, now in Second Division.

Many regard Beaney as English-born — incorrect of course, for Bill was born in Sydney. When quite young with his parents he returned to England where he developed a love or devotion to soccer.

Just before World War I began, as a married man, he returned to become one of the most capable administrators in Australia. A miner in Hebburn No. 1 Colliery, he soon took high office with the Weston Club.

Season after season, he served the "Geordies" faithfully, aided and spurred on by his good wife, who also loved the game. Beaney was the leading light when the club purchased the old "Homestead Ground" from the Weston Family Estate — purchase price was £300 — £50 down and £50 annually, till balance cleared without interest. When the clouds of World War I had passed away, Beaney began team building in real earnest. First signings were Dave Leece, Jock Martin and Peter Coppock.

Soon wearing the black and white colours were Lambert, Avis, Beverley, Mather, Hollingsworth, Henry, Austen brothers and Jim and Herb Bellamy. During Beaney's management, a series of tragedies hit the club. These are related elsewhere.

Beaney's influence spread among other Coalfield clubs and standard of play greatly improved.

In 1926, there was an element of discontent among the progressive clubs — a demand for better management at the top.

Hence the "Beaney's Brain Child" was born in Weston where the idea of a State League was first preached.

In 1927, Beaney visited strong soccer centres to advocate its formation. In 1928, the State League was founded with Beaney the inaugural secretary. In an honorary capacity, he worked like a trojan to make it a success.

In 1934, Beaney became State President, replacing his old friend, Tom Crawford, of Cessnock.

In 1935, Beaney withdrew after he had persuaded the writer to accept his position.

It is worthy to note that two honours went his way:

- (1) Manager of first N.S.W. team to tour Queensland under State League.
- (2) Manager of first Australian team to defeat English Amateurs in Sydney in July, 1937.

But he retired and worked as Weston's delegate till the unnecessary breakaway in 1943.

His life-long friend, Jack Avis, told the writer, "From the first Beaney advocated club against district soccer."

In a long fight, Beaney won and with club soccer the game advanced.

The author wishes to add this to the eulogy — "Beaney was for half a century the outstanding administrator — a servant who made no personal gain for his efficient work — a capable debater, a deep thinker and above all a likeable sportsman."

ALAN LAMB

When Alan Lamb became associated with Weston Bears, the famous club was gradually slipping down the decline of Depression Drive towards extinction.

His belief in the old adage, "where there is life, there is hope", changed the course of events.

He became president in 1954 for a short term but as a committee-man he voiced his opinions in no uncertain manner.

Even the moving of headquarters to Abermain Park in 1952-53-54 brought no success. Neither did help from local coaches.

Lamb faced this problem with pluck and determination. Under his direction, Weston sent Ian Thompson off to recruit players from England and Scotland. In May, 1968 the first contingent of players arrived and Weston were soon climbing the ladder. Lamb's outbursts about inefficiency in Northern control caused concern. Time proved him correct so when things reached a record low, Lamb was elected President of the Newcastle Soccer Federation. Soon a capable, co-operative group of directors helped Lamb to lift soccer in the North.

Let's relate his achievements:

1. Secured reliable sponsorship.
2. Number of clubs rose from 24 to 56.
3. Club administration improved and made businesslike.
4. Gained full voting rights for N.S.F. on National body.
5. Gained two permanent representatives on National Council.
6. Initiated tours with A.C.T.
7. Initiated tour of New Zealand.
8. Gained permanent coach for the North.
9. Strong support of Newcastle KB United in National Philips League now an established fact.

Also, Lamb is a leading Rotarian — constant business pressure plus soccer demands caused Alan to resign in 1977.

In all his civic and sporting activities, he has been fortunate that he has had the full support of his gracious wife, Judy.

Soccer within the Commonwealth, as well as Weston, owes a big "thank you" for leadership and business drive.

Lamb is best summed up in Huxley's words: "*The great end of life is not knowledge but action.*"

WAYNE HAWLEY

A disgruntled Wallsend pioneer complained, "No wonder Weston gets its name on all the soccer trophies, for it never has a poor secretary."

Their present scribe, Wayne Hawley, fits perfectly into that mould as he is a keen seeker after success. Since he took over, the club has produced excellent results. Firstly he set after the Delves Trophy (Club Championship) and it was won in 1978.

Wayne is a specialist in his work and aims at present in seeing the Bears win the inaugural Northern State League title.

JACK AVIS, Snr.

The Avis family migrated from Hetton-on-the-Wall to Weston in 1913.

For years, George W. Avis watched his eldest son, Jack, play excellent soccer in the ranks of the Northumberland F.A. juniors.

In Weston, the Avis family soon added their skill to local soccer. George became club president while Jack donned the club's famous colours — "Black and White". For 66 years, a member of the Avis clan has been associated with club management. But it was Avis' prowess as a player that made the name one of the most famous in Coalfields soccer.

A special guest at the 1977 Victory Presentation, J.A. was still able to show many friends the Gardiner Cup medal won with Weston in the 1918 season.

He won many honours with the club. In 1923 he captained New South Wales v China when 43,000 cheered the two teams at the end of a 2 all draw. Avis also played with great distinction against the 1925 English F.A. eleven.

Club records say that "Our Jacky" netted over 200 goals on the turf of the Homestead Ground. A wonderful achievement for a really grand sportsman.

He tutored hundreds in the manipulation of the round ball. Worthy praise to J.A. for surely in his case "praise makes good men better". Sadly to add, Jack passed away late in 1978 at the age of 84 years.

GEORGE WINSHIP

Winship's name will always be associated with Kurri Kurri soccer. George was born in Windy Nook in North-East of England.

He played juvenile and junior soccer there, and had several offers to turn professional due to his goalscoring ability.

After World War I, he migrated to New South Wales to Minmi, where he played soccer with the "Greens" for several seasons.

He came to Kurri Kurri years later and with the late Bill McBlane, reformed the Kurri Kurri Senior Club which had been dormant since 1914.

A highly efficient secretary, Winship combed the local junior ranks for talented stars and soon the Tricolours were a potent force in Northern soccer.

Winship was a keen advocate of "club" football and an original delegate to the State League in 1928. Under his guidance, Kurri Kurri placed its name high in the soccer records, especially in the 1928-29-30 seasons.

He was also actively associated with the Co-operative Movement for years and was a director of the Kurri Kurri Co-operative Society.

Winship won legions of friends by his method. "Let us beg to differ but let us still be good friends working for a common goal."

Sincerity was a keynote to all his public actions.

TOM CRAWFORD

For over 30 years, Tom Crawford was a leading administrator in soccer in the North.

He was born at Seaton Deval in North-Eastern Sector of England and showed prominence as a player at schoolboy, juvenile and junior level. Gained experience with the New Hartley club but at the age of 18 years he migrated to Canada and later to United States. There he played as a senior in the New York Soccer League.

Returned to New Hartley, where in a County Cup tie he suffered a severe injury to his left knee. With his playing days over, Crawford took up refereeing and in three seasons he secured the Full "A" Certificate of the F.A. (London).

He migrated to Australia in 1911 and was founder of the N.D.B.F.A. Referees' Association — the first of its kind in Australia. He moved from West Wallsend to Weston to Cessnock, being club secretary and delegate for many years.

In 1927, he became a co-partner with Billy Beaney in the formation of the first State League. He was its inaugural president and held that position till 1934.

Regarded as an authority on the laws of the game, he acted as State Examiner of Referees for many years.

Crawford insisted that it was the duty of the Referees' Association to educate as well as train young referees. He was the first official to introduce written as well as practical tests for examinees.

One quotation from Samuel Johnson sums up Crawford's work for soccer: "*The man who talks to unburden his mind, is a man to delight you.*"

LES PENNIMENT

Les ranks as one of the most efficient and understanding secretaries in the 50-year history of Coalfields soccer. A Colliery Clerk, he was a master of detail and under his direct guidance, the administrative efficiency of all junior clubs improved.

It was a sad day for the code when promotion caused him to vacate his soccer job.

Still, down the years Les has always shown the helping hand to junior officials and players. In other spheres, such as Crippled Children, Retired Mineworkers' Pension, Old Aged and Charity work, he still serves with keenness.

Way back in 1918, Les was a star defender with the Abermain Tom Tits. Later he played with Abermain and Hebburn in the aged competitions.

But one incident still stands out vividly in his memory.

The non-arrival of appointed referee saw Les volunteer to act in a local derby in which skin and hair flew in all directions. Two minutes from the end, Les awarded the visitors a penalty. When the score was netted, Les blew the final whistle — then he was bungled into the nearby pit dam.

Les won general praise for his organising ability when the 2nd Chinese team played the Coalfields at Abermain — a record crowd of 1,450 was pleased with a local victory, and so was the business community.

Now a veteran, he can look back with satisfaction for the quality of his service to his fellow man.

JOHN "JOCKEY" STEVENSON

A former Scot junior who migrated to Newcastle about the year 1881. Became one of the code's true pioneers.

Later he became, both in Minmi and Kurri Kurri, a very successful businessman.

Stevenson is reputed to have scored the first goal ever in the North when he played for South of Lambton v North of Lambton on Lambton Park in 1883.

Later, he played for Hamilton Athletic and Minmi Rangers. During a Cup tie, he netted the first "hat-trick" in Northern soccer.

He won his title, "Jockey", because of the manner he sagaciously dribbled the ball against much bigger opponents.

When soccer boomed on the Coalfields after World War I, Stevenson donated the Stevenson Cup, symbol of knock-out championship on the Coalfields.

The trophy — a magnificent work of art — was one of the best in all the Commonwealth.

Between 1906-1914, Stevenson became famed as a coach of Kurri Kurri junior teams which won many honours.

He was a keen advocate of accurate ball control and correct positional play.

"A truly great Scot, who became a truly great Australian."

JOHN "JUNIOR" BEATTIE

Modern soccer needs modern methods. This is the simple philosophy of Weston Bears' president, "Junior" Beattie, who is now in his seventh year of office.

As far as administration, Beattie is a product of the club, gradually climbing the ladder of seniority by devoted service. From Assistant Treasurer to Treasurer, he replaced Alan Lamb in the box seat.

Under his guidance the "Bears" have moved from success to success. He has the happy knack of getting fellow officers to pull their weight for the club. His geniality is infectious and the glint of authority is seen in his keen eyes. It was a happy moment when at the last Victory Presentation, he was made a Life Member of Weston — a high honour worthily won.

STEVE KAMASZ

At the Annual Meeting of the Northern Soccer Federation, the election of the 30 years former Weston player, Steve Kamasz, produced a major shock.

So after one year as treasurer, Kamasz moved onto the No. 1 key position. This former Leeds star will have a big task in guiding the destinies of the Northern State League in its inaugural season — a big job for the young and progressive business executive.

JOHN SULLIVAN

Few sportsmen are better known in the Hunter Valley area than Northern Soccer Secretary, John Sullivan. By profession a teacher at Maitland High School, he has used all his organising skills to advance the round ball code. His school's motto of "*En Avant*" is his by-word for the game.

A foundation official of Maitland Soccer Club when it was formed early in 1962, for years he has acted as secretary and has watched its up-and-down career.

But he feels certain that the code is firmly established in the rural city.

A master of detail, he always stands at the front door to secure publicity. Journalists respect his honest intent and have rallied to his cause.

In 1976, he was elected Northern Secretary and in a short space has seen development in many outer areas.

Sullivan has brought the clubs in five divisions closer together for the good of the clubs.

A native of Newcastle, he played primary, secondary school and junior soccer with success.

Sullivan was a keen advocate to secure a place in the National Philips League for Newcastle United.

Such a spirit of co-operation must in the long run help to consolidate the code in the North.

BILLY McBLANE

A native of Minmi of Scottish extraction — Billy served the round ball game in many ways for many years.

He won fame as a player, a referee and an official.

When he moved to Kurri Kurri, he was the first secretary when the Tricolours club re-entered senior ranks in 1920.

He is also well-known as Northern Miners Federation — Secretary of Pelaw Main Miners' Lodge — a director of Kurri Kurri Co-operative Society.

Billy was a keen debater and a great citizen of the Coalfields. His calm and collected manner under time of duress made him a very popular figure. This was shown when over 4,000 attended his funeral. His one belief, "Those eternal laws of justice, which are our rule and our birthright", is an epitome of his mode of living.

GEORGE GENDER

Soon after World War I, there was an ardent quest for senior soccer in Neath. In this demand, the voice of George Gender was always heard.

He attended conference after conference to put the case for Senior Soccer for Neath.

George never forgot the caustic remarks of one club delegate from a club not far down the line, "we need quality not quantity". But George's sincerity won the day and Neath won a place in the senior ranks in 1924.

In its day, the club produced many fine players, many of whom were lured away to other clubs.

Later George Gender moved to Stockton, where he won fame as a bowler with the seaside club.

RALPH GRIEVES

Migrated to Weston from North Seaton Colliery in Northumberland in 1913. A business executive of varied interests, he served soccer for over 50 years in Weston, Cessnock, Lithgow, Sydney and Newcastle. For years he was secretary of the S.M.S. Association and kept the flag flying when interest waned. Overseas teams, English Amateurs, Chinese, Indian and Palestine which visited the Coalfields found Grieves a great host.

For 10 years, he was a director of the N.S.W. Soccer Council. However, he was a keen referee among the senior, junior and schoolboy ranks.

In 1952, Ralph was made a Life Member of the N.S.W.S.A. He was also a Life Member of the Newcastle Austral Club.

DOUG SKELDING

An Englishman from Bradford in Yorkshire, a county of sportsmen, Doug Skelding played a very vital and important part in the formation of the Maitland Club. A mill manager in the Cotton and Textile industry, was in 1938 sent to Egypt to supervise the founding of the industry in Cairo. Later he was assigned to a new project at Rutherford (N.S.W.).

Doug was president of the Maitland Club from 1965 to 1973 and Northern Director 1973-1976.

A very popular personality, he still follows the round ball code, waiting for the day when Maitland regains a place in the top circle.

GEORDIE BILL HINDMARSH

Soon after soccer was born in Weston, Geordie Bill arrived in the town and soon showed his football boots that had won him many junior honours in the North-East of England.

A defender of great strength, with astute positional play, his motto was "any port in a storm" — his long clearances often cleared both the tall gum trees as well as Deep Creek. Hence the local term, "Geordie Bill it".

Later, he served the Weston Club and the South Maitland Association as secretary.

When he retired he said, "If I had served my business as well as I had served soccer, I would have a bank balance as big as Tumble Bee".

HARRY HETHERINGTON

Although a native of Wallsend, Harry Hetherington has given yeoman service to the code in Maitland and Rutherford.

A foundation official of the Maitland Club, his work helped the ruralites to win major honours in the sixties. In more recent years he has held high administrative offices on the Northern Federation as secretary, registrar and director.

Now official recorder of Northern records.

In his playing days, he made over 250 senior appearances, with Wallsend and Mayfield United.

Harry's aim is to put back something into the game he played in his youth.

GEORGE JEFFREYS

Former Englishman, George Jeffreys, managed the Kearsley Club.

A shrewd judge of a young player, he had great satisfaction when the Kearsley (2nd Division) won the Stevenson Cup against all-comers.

The writer can still see George taken from sick bed to the Cessnock Sports Ground to see the Englishmen play in 1937. Locals knew George's worth for the local ground is called after him — Jeffreys Park.

His great work for Kearsley sport is still remembered years after his passing.

JOHN "SCOTTY" CARMICHAEL

When the history of the Bellbird Club is written, the name of Carmichael will be written in letters of gold.

Came here in 1921 and was a capable full back with Cessnock in those days. A master of positional play and could place a ball on a sixpence.

When his playing days were over, Carmichael devoted all his efforts to soccer in Bellbird. His death in 1971 left a vacancy hard to fill, especially with soccer and the Bellbird Workers' Club.

PERCE JOHNSON

Sports of all kinds owe much to the efforts of the Kurri Kurri businessman, Perce Johnson.

A native of New Lambton, he was a leading official for amateur cycling.

Later he became president of the Kurri Kurri Soccer Club.

Perce was also a sporty journalist whose work for soccer extended from 1924 to 1950.

In the late fifties, he was awarded the B.E.M. for his civic activities and sport.

A capable club president, Perce once quietened a rowdy meeting by using the quotation, "The wisest men sometimes act weakly, and the weakest sometimes wisest".

JIMMY LOWE

A canny Scot who put Aberdare on the soccer map. He served in the 1st World War with a Scot regiment, but then came to Aberdare. Along with miners' official Ern Gibson, he battled to gain senior status for the "Red and Blacks".

Soon that club made history by winning the inaugural State Cup in 1928.

Later it lost its power and now rests in the junior circles. Jimmy was secretary of the Cessnock Caledonian Club when World War II broke out.

In victory, Jimmy often quoted, "Then Scotland's right and Scotland's might, And Scotland's hills for me; We'll drink a cup to Scotland yet, Wi a' the honours three".

BERT MYALL

During the height of his career as a referee, Bert Myall suffered an incurable illness. Despite this handicap, he continued as a soccer official for over 20 years. He was secretary, treasurer, selector, auditor of the Kurri Kurri Club. He also gave yeoman service to the junior players.

Bert was a born fighter and a keen debater.

When one remembers Bert, one thinks of Longfellow's lines — "Know how sublime a thing it is, to suffer and be strong."

DON JONES

Another former Coalfielder, Don Jones has made a grand contribution to Northern soccer since Federation control began in the North.

Don played soccer with Cessnock High School before entering the banking profession.

His late father, Frank, was one of the North's best goalies after World War I.

These days, Don is president of the Northern N.S.W. Federation. He served five years as treasurer, and his business acumen made it a financial success.

JIM EARP

An English sportsman who served well in Kurri Kurri.

A president of Kurri Kurri Senior Club, he did great work as S.M. delegate to the New South Wales Soccer Association. In 1926, he drafted the minority report re the formation of a State League. Despite a setback, Earp never gave in and was a happy man when the League began in 1928.

Earp was also well known for his able refereeing.

FRANK HALLAM

A popular Cessnock solicitor, Frank Hallam was president of the club in the early fifties. His progressive work soon received recognition and he was elected as the Coalfields' director on the State League Council. His legal background helped greatly when a new constitution was introduced. He always added dignity to the code which he served with intense loyalty. His son, Brian, developed into a top-ranking goalie.

In later years he has concentrated with success at Drake's ancient pastime.

"BUNNY" McWILLIAMS

This popular figure made his mark on the round ball game in three distinct areas. Firstly, as a skilled player — then as a top-ranking referee whose decisions were seldom questioned — off the field he became "the voice of the Coalfields" when the Coal City held a radio licence 2CK. During the season, his bi-weekly chats on soccer and other sports were the talk of the area, because he was meticulously fair with his comments, forecasts, etc.

Coalfielders galore regretted it when the licence was moved to Newcastle. "Bunny" was lost for years till he turned his sporting enthusiasm to Drake's ancient pastime.

GEORGE AVIS, Snr.

The name Avis is a byword in soccer at Weston. Rightly so, for in years gone by, one of the pioneers and stalwarts was George W. Avis, Snr. He migrated to Australia from Northumberland County twice: in 1887 and again in 1913, when he settled in Weston.

For over 55 years, he paid his "stump" dues to the Miners' Federation. But his love of soccer extends to over 66 years. He first suggested Weston's entry into Gardiner Cup. He was president of Weston Club for several years between 1915-1920.

At all times, "the old man" was a 100% Geordies' supporter. One of his rivals once remarked, "G.W.A. is a sound judge of soccer when Weston are not competing."

With his passing, Weston and all the Coalfields lost a grand citizen, whose civic service covered many spheres.

GEORGE HOLLIDAY

A former Durham County amateur player, George came to Kurri Kurri in 1912.

When war broke out in 1914, he joined the A.I.F. and served till 1918 when he returned to the Coalfields.

A referee of note, he also acted as honorary treasurer for the S.M. Soccer Association for over 15 years.

He was also a leading Rechabite Lodge administrator and an active worker for the Kurri Kurri Eisteddfod, which in the twenties was the biggest in the Commonwealth. He also held many offices in the Returned Soldiers' League.

TOM HASTIE

The soft-spoken Scot from Aberdare won praise for his work with that club. In 1936, Tom was elected paid secretary for the New South Wales Soccer Association. In Sydney, Tom acted as host to many of the overseas teams which toured Australia between 1936 and 1942.

Soon after his retirement, he returned to Cessnock where several years ago he passed away.

DICK DRINKWATER

The name Drinkwater has been associated with Coalfields football for over 50 years.

Dick and his brother, Jack, first played for Neath in the period after World War I.

Jack won State honours as a winger, while Dick excelled as a tough defender.

Later he became president of the Cessnock Club. His son, Jack, became one of the greatest goalscorers of all time — winning national, State and district honours.

Dick also was a great worker for the Cessnock District Hospital. For several years he was its president.

JACKY PETERS

A former player, Jacky Peters became secretary of the Cessnock Club soon after World War II. A keen spotter of local stars who under his skilled guidance developed into top-ranking players, he was also an efficient trainer. Jack believed in giving the code the widest publicity ever.

His son, Phil, later won many honours, both in the North and on the South Coast.

Peters won general admiration in his native city for the merit of his sporting activities over many years.

MARTIN MANION

This fine old gentleman from Abermain loved to battle for the underdog, whether it be in soccer or in Trade Unionism.

Born in Warrington in Lancashire, where work and sport were the two main things in life.

He brought both these to Abermain soon after the town was born. He loved both soccer and cricket, but his main interests were with the mining industry.

He was president of the Abermain Miners' Lodge, member of Abermain School of Arts, and local Co-operative Society. He also won representation on the Northern Miners' Federation and was a staunch A.L.P. man. He lived 25 years in the town. His son, Jack, became a hero on the Coalfields as a soccer star.

Relatives in England just can't understand why the name is not spelt Mannion.

BILL WRIGHT

A popular industrialist, Bill lived in Weston where he helped soccer in many ways. His work for the S.M.J.S.A. was tremendous.

Worked continuously in an administrative capacity.

Another stalwart of that era was Charlie Perry, former junior secretary and referee.

BERT COCKBAIN

Fewer Coalfield officials have given more loyal service to soccer than Bert Cockbain of Cessnock.

Bert was always on deck during the recession when finance was a problem.

The meeting to reform its club early in the forties was held on his side verandah.

He was later president, secretary and treasurer for short spaces for over 20 years. Later he turned to bowls and was a foundation member of East Cessnock.

Cockbain seemed always to say about soccer, "This is a sport which makes the body's very liver curl with enjoyment."

Those who knew Bert closely all say, "A contribution well done."

THRILLING CUP TIES

It is doubtful whether any other Cup tie fired the public's imagination as did the Aberdare v Kurri Kurri semi-final of 1928. It took 8½ hours of tense football before finality was reached. From the first kick-off to the last, public interest never dwindled. It reached its crescendo in the fifth clash on the famous Homestead enclosure.

On the Wednesday preceding this tie, a wild Miners' Aggregate Meeting was held in the Royal Theatre, Kurri Kurri, bringing all the Mining Union chiefs to debate about "goings-on" at Stockton Borehole Colliery, Boolaroo. Hour after hour of rowdy debate ceased when the popular Rowley James, M.H.R., moved "that we now adjourn as a majority here have an urgent engagement at Weston at 3 o'clock". Amidst general laughter, this was carried, but that afternoon's play failed to find the finalist.

Let's now trace the five games in order.

Match 1. Teams were —

Aberdare: H. McKessock, A. Henwood, T. Hill, T. Shakespeare, J. Evans, W. Sterritt, N. Brennan, J. McKay, B. McLaren, A. Thomson, J. Drinkwater.

Kurri Kurri: G. Goodwin, J. Beddow, H. Maunders, H. McCaw, S. Kidd, T. Warren, C. James, N. Price, J. Williams, A. Park, R. McNaughton.

Result: scoreless draw. Crowd 2,711. At Cessnock Pit Paddock on 18/8/28. Referee: H. Hincks.

Very even game with rival goalkeepers excelling.

Match 2 —

Aberdare: H. Orr replaced N. Brennan.

Kurri Kurri made three changes due to injury. J. Farrey replaced T. Warren at left-half; W. Price replaced J. Williams at centre forward; H. Pringle replaced A. Park inside left.

Result: 2 all. Aberdare 1, Kurri 0 at half-time. *Scorers:* McLaren 2 (Aberdare), James, N. Price (Kurri Kurri). Crowd 2,178. Referee: H. Hincks.

Fifteen minutes extra-time played without definite result. Played at Weston 8/9/28.

Match 3 —

Aberdare unchanged original eleven.

Kurri Kurri unchanged original eleven.

Aberdare 1, Kurri Kurri 1. Scorers: McLaren 1 (Aberdare), Beddow 1 (Kurri Kurri). Crowd 2,027. Referee: H. Hincks.

Very hot day, no extra time played. Played at Cessnock, Wednesday, 12/9/28.

Match 4 —

Aberdare — unchanged.

Kurri Kurri had Farrey at left-half and Pringle on left wing.

Scorers: Aberdare 1 (McLaren), Kurri Kurri 1 (McNaughton).

Crowd 4,077. Referee: H. Hincks.

A classic game with both contestants excelling. Defences were superb. Goodwin a master in goal for Kurri Kurri.

Match 5 —

Aberdare unchanged.

Kurri Kurri had V. Turnbull for Farrey at left half.

Aberdare 2 (Mackay, McLaren), Kurri Kurri 1 (H. Pringle).

Crowd 2,977. Referee: D. Quinn.

Played at Weston, Saturday, 22/9/28.

It was to be regretted that the fifth clash ended in rather an anti-climax fashion, as over 4,000 spectators lined the roped arena. Dozens of lorries were used so that many had an elevated view of play. After a long period of fascinating attack and counter-defence, there were dramatic happenings. Two goals claimed by Kurri's players were disallowed.

Firstly, a high cross from left winger, McNaughton, was headed home by Noey Price. The near linesman flagged for "ball out of play". After consultation with referee, play restarted — not by a throw-in but by a goal-kick to Aberdare — a decision born of panic by both linesman and referee. This stirred the partisan section of the crowd near the spot.

Later, a fastish drive by Pringle hit the cross-bar with great force to ricochet downwards over the goal line by six inches. The ball was scooped out quickly and sagaciously by 'keeper McKissock. An appeal for goal was rejected by referee. Pandemonium broke out and a portion of the crowd invaded the field, causing play to be held up for nine minutes.

Peace was restored and the 'Darians played out the game with caution to win by 1 to 0. At the sound of the final whistle, portion of the crowd wended its way out wondering if justice had been done.

The Kurri camp was very dissatisfied and entered a protest.

The public received a major shock when the "Telegraph" (Monday's issue) gave contents of interview between State President and the Cessnock journalist, Mr. George Rickwood, which said, "I blame the Kurri players and supporters for the invasion of the pitch and for general misconduct."

Such comment, when this whole matter was subjudice, was an amazing lack of tact and decorum by the president, as he was a member of the P. and D. Committee to hear Kurri's protest.

The Kurri Club met on Monday and a group of local businessmen offered to bear the costs of an appeal to the Equity Court to secure justice.

On Tuesday, the P. and D. met and dismissed Kurri's protest. Later, Kurri's secretary, George Winship said, "We refused to take any legal action because of expense and we think it may hurt the code's name."

But the matter caused a furore in the press.

"Goalie" of the Newcastle Morning Herald remarked in a private letter to the writer, "I was upset over this affair, especially President's statement in the press. I favoured the protest going to the full Council meeting." Jim Earp, president of Kurri Kurri, remarked, "It is a case of Talkative Tommy at his worst. We have no hard feelings against Aberdare."

Critics who opposed the State League remarked, "The State League heads have driven the first nail into its coffin."

Mr. George Smart, master tailor of Maitland and former Scot player, remarked, "It's worrying to think that justice was not done — confidence in the 'big three' has been badly shattered."

A former English soccer writer, Mr. J. N. Sherwood, who came from Sydney to cover the match, said, "An eventful Cup tie spoilt by malfunction of justice. Both the referee and one linesman were inefficient."

The final between Aberdare and Weston copped in full force the "anti" rebound and the clash proved a "washout". Receipts barely covered the cost of staging the game. One fellow wrote to the "Kurri Times" — "You can't fool the paying public twice in the same month."

Aberdare won the inaugural Cup final by 2 to nil. Ben McLaren and Jock Drinkwater were the scorers for the "Dares". It is, however, fair to say that Weston were side-lined for three weeks owing to the delay in reaching finality in the other semi-final. The hot weather, too, was a trying ordeal for both teams. Before this chapter closes let me record this observation.

For years I questioned Aberdare's right-half, Tom Shakespeare, on this question. "Was Pringle's goal a good one?" For 10 years Tom remained silent and shook his head. No reply or comment.

However, later, on returning from a big match in Sydney, he volunteered and admitted — saying, "It was a good goal and we were lucky that the referee missed it." . . . Fifty years have slipped away, but memories of this tie still remain with me — backed up by notes recorded in memoirs made after the game.

Coalfielders who played for Australia

C. Almond	15	P. Lennard	10
R. Austen	1	W. Lonergan	3
V. Barnett	1	J. Manion	1
J. Barr	3	J. McCroarey	1
L. Burnett	1	J. McNabb	17
N. Conquest	9	R. McNaughton	8
Jackie Drinkwater (Aber)	1	T. Oliver	6
Jack Drinkwater (Cess)	2	K. O'Neill	33
J. B. Evans	27	P. Peters	1
J. Gilmour	3	J. Pettigrew	10
P. Harris	3	A. Phillips	2
J. Harden	3	G. Rowe	1
L. Hearne	4	J. Taylor	1
A. Heaney	5	A. Teece	1
A. Henwood	3	J. Wallace	3
E. Hodge	2	J. Wilkinson	16
J. Lennard	16	Cec Williams	2

Coalfielders who played for New South Wales

J. Thompson (Cessnock)	G. Mullens (Aberdare)
W. Lambert (Weston)	D. Clarke (Cessnock)
J. Avis Snr. (Weston)	G. Thomson (Cessnock)
J. Beddow (Kurri Kurri)	J. Wilkinson (Weston)
W. Sterrit (Aberdare)	L. Hearne (Kurri Kurri)
Rob Austen (Weston)	C. Almond (Cessnock)
P. Lennard (Cessnock)	L. Falk (Cessnock)
L. Brown (Cessnock)	T. Sneddon (Weston)
T. Oliver (Weston)	L. Burnett (Cessnock)
A. Creighton (Weston)	S. Ramage (Kurri Kurri)
C. Thompson (Cessnock)	H. Biggers (Weston)
H. Muir (Weston)	T. Harris (Weston)
N. Price (Kurri Kurri)	J. Kemp (Weston)
P. Johns (Cessnock)	W. Whitelaw (Weston)
E. Hodge (Cessnock)	T. Jurd (Kurri Kurri)
J. Taylor (Cessnock)	D. Evans (Cessnock)
J. Harden (Cessnock)	A. Thomson (Cessnock)
J. McNabb (Weston)	C. Mowatt (Cessnock)
J. Drinkwater (Aberdare)	H. Workman (Kurri Kurri)
J. B. Evans (Cessnock)	J. McCroarey (Weston)

N. Conquest (Aberdare)	J. Pettigrew (Cessnock)
W. Lonergan (Aberdare)	J. Smith (Weston)
A. Park (Kurri Kurri)	R. Johnson (Weston)
R. McNaughton (Cessnock)	B. Whitehead (Weston)
A. Phillips (Kurri Kurri)	B. Duma (Maitland)
K. O'Neill (Cessnock)	J. Bond (Weston)
J. Lennard (Cessnock)	A. Cooper (Weston)
J. Barr (Cessnock)	P. Irving (Weston)
J. Roberts (Cessnock)	K. Worden (Weston)
E. Williams (Cessnock)	James Hogg (Cessnock)
J. Stoker (Weston)	W. Halverson (Weston)
J. Gilmour (Weston)	Stev Kamasz (Weston)
J. Farrey (Weston)	G. King (Cessnock)
J. Manion (Weston)	F. Woods (Weston)
J. Osborne (Weston)	M. Southworth (Cessnock)
W. Moy (Kurri Kurri)	M. Davies (Weston)
J. Drinkwater (Cessnock)	J. T. Turnbull (Weston)

Played with other Northern Clubs

L. Hearne (East Lakes)	2
J. Lennard (May United)	2

Played with Southern Clubs

J. B. Evans	6	George Russell	6
H. Workman	4	A. Teece	4
J. Wallace	4	N. Conquest	3
G. Keir	3	W. Lonergan	2
A. Perris	2	W. Moy	2
A. Park	1	C. Williams	1
E. Kemp	1	Trevor Jurd	1
Cec Mowatt	1		

Goals scored by Coalfielders in North v South

Jack Manion (Weston)	7	H. Pringle (Kurri Kurri)	1
Jack Drinkwater (Cessnock)	6	Jim Kemp (Weston)	1
Jim Wilkinson (Weston)	3	L. Burnett (Cessnock)	1
Jack Drinkwater (Aberdare)	2	L. Hearne (Cessnock)	1
J. Lennard (Cessnock)	2	J. Barr (Cessnock)	1
W. Lonergan (Cessnock)	2	C. Almond (Cessnock)	1
Jim Williams (Weston)	2	V. Tancer (Greta Austral)	1
Trevor Jurd (Aberdare)	2	K. O'Neill (Cessnock)	1
H. Orr (Aberdare)	2	A. Simmond (Cessnock)	1

Coalfields and State Caps

Coalfields v West Australia at Albion Ground, Maitland, 12/5/1909:

Coalfields XI — Bondi Neal (KK), R. Cartwright (EG), C. Cartwright (EG), W. Howie (Cess), A. McNaughton (Cess), R. Harden (Cess), Capt. J. Jowett (EG), J. Wardrobe (Weston), W. Ashman (KK), T. Corrigan (Cess), G. Coulson (EG).

N.S.W. v Queensland in Queensland, 1922:

A. Creighton (Weston), E. Williams (Cess), P. Lennard (Cess).

N.S.W. v Victoria in Victoria, 1913:

J. Stoker (Weston).

N.S.W. v Victoria in Sydney, 1914:

Jim Thomson (Cessnock).

N.S.W. v Tasmania in N.S.W., 1912:

J. Thomson (Cessnock).

N.S.W. v Queensland in Queensland, 1912:

J. Thomson (Cessnock).

N.S.W. v N.Z. in N.S.W., 1923:

T. Oliver (Weston), P. Lennard (Cessnock) 1 goal.

N.S.W. v Queensland in Queensland, 1923:

T. Oliver (Weston), A. Creighton (Weston) Captain, J. Gilmour (Weston).

N.S.W. v China, Sydney, 1923:

J. Avis (Weston) Captain, P. Lennard (Cessnock) 2 goals.

N.S.W. v England, Sydney, 1925:

J. Lennard (Cessnock), R. McNaughton (Cessnock).

N.S.W. v England, Sydney, 1925 (return match):

R. McNaughton (Cessnock).

N.S.W. v Queensland in Queensland, 1926:

J. Farrey (Weston), J. Manion (Weston).

North XI v Queensland, Newcastle, 1915:

Coalfields — J. Gilmour (Weston), J. Laird (Cess), D. Clark (KK) 1 goal.

North XI 2 v Queensland 0 at Newcastle, 4/6/21:

Coalfields — S. Wells (KK), L. Brown (Cess).

North XI 2 v Queensland 5 at Newcastle, 3/7/22:

Coalfields — Bob Austen (Weston), J. Strang (Cess), R. Henderson (KK), J. McCroarey (Weston), A. Henderson (KK), E. Williams (Cess). J. McCroarey 1 goal.

Australia v Coalfields XI at Kurri:

On return of tour of New Zealand, 1922. Coalfields XI 3 beat Australia 0.

Coalfields XI — Bob Austen (Weston), D. Leese (Weston), G. Williams (Cess), A. Henderson (KK), J. Strang (Cess), P. Coppick

(Weston), J. Avis (Weston), P. Lennard (Cess), L. Brown (Cess), J. Martin (Weston).

Scorers: Gilmour (2), Lennard.

Coalfields XI 2 v New Zealand 1, Cessnock, 13/6/23:

Coalfields — Bob Austen (Weston), T. Oliver (Weston), G. Williams (Cess), W. Mathieson (Cess), Creighton (Weston), Avis (Weston) Captain, L. Brown (Cess), P. Lennard (Cess), J. McCroarey (Weston), J. Gilmour (Weston), R. McNaughton (Cess).

Scorers: Lennard, McCroarey.

Coalfields 4 v New Zealand 1, Weston, 13/7/23:

Scorers: Lennard 2, McCroarey, McNaughton.

Coalfields 6 v Victoria 0 at Kurri, 6/6/23:

Coalfields XI — Bob Austen (Weston), Oliver (Weston), R. Bower (KK), Mathieson (Cess), Creighton (Weston), Avis (Weston) Captain, E. Williams (Cess), P. Lennard (Cess), J. McCroarey (Weston), J. Gilmour (Weston), Drinkwater (Neath).

Scorers: Lennard 2, McCroarey 2, Mathieson, Gilmour.

North 2 v Queensland 0 at Newcastle, 6/6/24:

Coalfields — R. Bower (KK), G. Rowe (Cess), A. Phillips (KK). Scorer: L. Brown.

Coalfields 1 v England 4 at Cessnock, 15/7/25:

Coalfields XI — R. Austen (Weston), J. Farrey (Weston), G. Williams (Cess), J. Liddle (Weston), E. Hodge (Cessnock), J. Avis (Weston), C. Williams (Cess), P. Lennard (Cess), J. McCroarey (Weston), J. Manion (Weston), R. McNaughton (Cess).

Scorer: P. Lennard.

Coalfields 3 v Czechoslovakia 1 at Cessnock, 8/6/26:

Coalfields XI — Bob Austen (Cess), J. Beddow (KK), E. Hodge (Cess), S. Kidd (KK), J. Taylor (Cess), J. Harden (Cess), C. Williams (Cess), E. Williams (Cess), J. Mackay (KK), R. McNaughton (Cess), J. Drinkwater (Aberdare).

Scorers: Mackay, McNaughton, Drinkwater.

North 6 v Sydney & South Coast 1, Sydney, 6/6/26:

Coalfields — G. Goodwin (KK), J. Manion (Weston), P. Hogan (Cess), McNaughton (Cess).

Scorers: Manion 2, Hogan.

Coalfields 6 v N.S.W. 2 at Weston, 5/5/29:

Coalfields XI — Bob Austen (Cess), E. Hodge (Cess), W. White-law (Weston), W. Victor (Weston), J. Evans (Aber), J. Harden (Cess), B. McLaren (Aber), P. Lennard (Cess), C. James (KK).

Scorers: C. James 3, McCroarey 1, Barnett 1, Lennard 1. For N.S.W., N. Price 2.

Coalfields in N.S.W. v Queensland in Queensland, 1929:

J. Beddow (KK), C. Thompson (Cess), W. Sterritt (Aber), H. Muir (Weston), N. Price (Cess), P. Johns (Cess), Bill Beaney (Weston) Manager.

N.S.W. v Queensland in Queensland, 1930:

Coalfielders — E. Hodge (Cess), J. McNabb (Weston), J. Taylor (Aber) Captain, J. Osborne (Weston), N. Price (Cess), J. Drinkwater (Aber).

N.S.W. v Queensland in N.S.W., 7/6/30:

Coalfielders — E. Hodge (Cess), McNabb (Weston), J. Osborne (Weston), N. Price (Cess), J. Drinkwater (Aberdare).

Scorer: N. Price 2.

N.S.W. v Queensland at Newcastle, 12/7/30:

Coalfielders — E. Hodge (Cess), J. Beddow (KK), A. Park (Cess), Drinkwater (Aberdare).

N.S.W. 12 v Queensland 2 in Queensland, 6/5/33:

Coalfielders — J. Drinkwater (Weston), J. McNabb (Weston), J. Evans (Cess), Bill Beaney (Weston) Manager.

Australian Tour of New Caledonia, 1933:

Coalfielders in party — J. McNabb (Weston), J. Evans (Cessnock).

N.S.W. 5 v N.Z. 0 in Sydney, 1933:

Coalfielders — J. McNabb (Weston), J. Evans (Cessnock).

N.S.W. v Victoria in Victoria, 1934:

Tour cancelled. Coalfielders selected were — J. McNabb (Weston), A. Ramage (KK), Jim Wilkinson (Weston).

Interstate Carnival, Sydney, 1932:

Coalfielders — J. McNabb (Weston) 5 matches, Jim Kemp (Weston) 2, J. Evans (Cess) 2, J. Drinkwater (Aber) 1, W. Whitelaw (Weston) 1, Jim Wilkinson (Weston) 1.

Interstate Carnival, Adelaide, 1936:

Coalfielders — T. Jurd (KK), Dave Evans (Cessnock).

National Trials, Sydney, 2/5/36:

Coalfielders —

Australian XI — J. Evans (Cessnock).

N.S.W. XI — J. Harden (Weston).

National Trial, Newcastle, 4/5/36:

Coalfielders —

Australian XI — J. McNabb (Weston), A. Henwood (Aberdare), J. Wilkinson (Weston).

N.S.W. XI — N. Conquest (Aberdare), T. Harris (Weston), J. Harden (Weston), Jim Williams (Weston), H. Pringle (KK).

Australia v Metropolis, Sydney, 13/6/36:

Coalfielders — J. McNabb (Weston), J. Harden (Weston), J. Wilkinson (Weston).

Australia v Metropolis, Sydney, 8/8/36:

Coalfielders — J. McNabb (Weston), J. Harden (Weston), Jim Wilkinson (Weston).

N.S.W. v Queensland in Queensland, 1946:

Coalfielder — K. O'Neill (Cessnock).

N.S.W. v Sydney at Sydney, 10/6/46:

Coalfielder — K. O'Neill (Cessnock).

N.S.W. v English Amateurs, Sydney, 1937:

Coalfielders — J. McNabb (Weston), P. Harris (Weston), J. Wilkinson (Weston).

Australia XI v English Amateurs, Melbourne, 1937:

Coalfielder — J. Wilkinson (Weston).

N.S.W. v Queensland in Queensland, 1939:

Coalfielders — Jim Wilkinson (Weston), L. Burnett (Cessnock).

N.S.W. v Palestine, Sydney, 1939:

Coalfielders — J. McNabb (Weston), J. Wilkinson (Weston), W. Lonergan (Cessnock), T. Harris (Weston).

N.S.W. v Queensland in Queensland, 1938:

Coalfielders — J. Kemp (Weston), Cec Mowatt (Cessnock).

N.S.W. v Queensland in Sydney, 1938:

Coalfielder — J. Wilkinson (Weston).

N.S.W. v India in Sydney, 1938:

Coalfielders — J. McNabb (Weston), J. Wilkinson (Weston), H. Workman (KK), A. Ramage (KK).

N.S.W. v Victoria, Sydney, 4/5/40:

Coalfielders — J. McNabb (Weston), Jim Wilkinson (Weston), L. Burnett (Cessnock).

N.S.W. v China, Sydney, 31/5/41:

Coalfielders — Jim Wilkinson (Weston), W. Moy (KK).

N.S.W. v South Africa in Sydney, 3/5/47:

Coalfielder — K. O'Neill (Cessnock).

N.S.W. v Queensland in Queensland, 28/8/48:

Coalfielders — L. Falk (Cessnock), K. O'Neill (Cessnock).

N.S.W. v Queensland in Queensland, 30/8/48:

Coalfielders — L. Falk (Cessnock), K. O'Neill (Cessnock).

N.S.W. v Yugoslavia, Sydney, 1949:

Coalfielder — K. O'Neill (Cessnock).

N.S.W. v Queensland in Queensland, June 1950:

Coalfielder — C. Almond (Cessnock) 4 games.

N.S.W. v England, Sydney, 19/5/51:

Coalfielders — K. O'Neill (Cessnock), C. Almond (Cessnock).

North v England, Cessnock, 30/5/51:

Coalfielders — P. Peters (Cessnock), A. Purden (Cessnock), K. O'Neill (Cessnock).

N.S.W. v England, Newcastle, 2/6/51:

Coalfielder — K. O'Neill (Cessnock).

N.S.W. v England, Wollongong, 22/7/51:

Coalfielder — K. O'Neill (Cessnock).

Interstate Carnival, Melbourne, 7/6/52:
Coalfielder — C. Almond (Cessnock).

N.S.W. v New Zealand, Sydney, 21/8/54:
Coalfielder — K. O'Neill (Cessnock).

North v New Zealand at Wallsend, 29/8/54:
Coalfielders — K. O'Neill (Cessnock), N. Henderson (Cessnock), J. Lennard (Cessnock).

North v. South China, Cessnock, 30/7/55:
Coalfielders — C. Almond (Cessnock), K. O'Neill (Cessnock) Captain, J. Porteus (Cessnock).

N.S.W. v Victoria, Wallsend, 12/6/55:
Coalfielders — K. O'Neill (Cessnock) Captain, J. Drinkwater (Cessnock), J. Lennard (Cessnock).

N.S.W. v Victoria, Sydney, 13/6/55:
Coalfielders — K. O'Neill (Cess) Captain, J. Lennard (Cess-M.U.).

N.S.W. v Austria Rapids, Sydney, 1/7/55:
Coalfielder — K. O'Neill (Cessnock).

Olympic Trials, Newcastle, 11/4/55 — North v South:
Coalfielders — J. Nelson (Cessnock), J. Pettigrew (Cessnock), J. Barr (Cessnock), J. Porteus (Cessnock).

N.S.W. v Victoria, Melbourne, 1/3/55:
Coalfielder — K. O'Neill (Cessnock) Captain.

Olympic Trial, Sydney, 15/7/56:
N.S.W. — J. Lennard (Cessnock).
North XI — W. Thomson (Cessnock).

Olympic Trials, North Newcastle, 8/4/56:
Rest — J. Barr (Cess), J. Pettigrew (Cess), J. Porteus (Cess).

N.S.W. v Victoria, Melbourne, 2/6/56:
Coalfielders — J. Pettigrew (Cess) 2 games, J. Barr (Cess) 2 games.

N.S.W. v Queensland, Brisbane, 2/6/56:
Coalfielders — K. O'Neill (Cess) Captain, J. Pettigrew (Cess).

N.S.W. v Queensland, Sydney, 25/6/56:
Coalfielder — C. Almond (Cessnock) 2 games.

N.S.W. v Queensland, Brisbane, 4/5/57:
Coalfielders — J. Pettigrew (Cess) 2 games, K. O'Neill (Cess) 2 games, J. Lennard (Cess) 2 games.

N.S.W. v Queensland, Sydney, 4/6/57:
Coalfielders — J. Pettigrew (Cess), J. Lennard (Cess) K. O'Neill (Cessnock).

N.S.W. v Blackpool, Wallsend, 9/5/58:
Coalfielders — W. Whitelaw (Cess), J. Pettigrew (Cess).

Aust. XI v Hearts, Wallsend, 1959:
Coalfielders — J. Pettigrew (GR), K. O'Neill (Prague).

North v Fiji at Cessnock, 31/5/61:
Coalfielders — J. Nelson (Cess), M. Willoughby (Cess), D. Bright (Cess), J. Barr (Cess).

North v Fiji at Adamstown, 27/5/61:
Coalfielder — M. Willoughby (Cessnock).

North First v South First, Wallsend, 1/4/62:
Coalfielder — J. Barr (Cessnock).

North 2nds v South 2nds, Wallsend, 1/4/62:
Coalfielder — J. Lennard (Cessnock).

A. Johns' Testimonial, Adamstown, 23/4/62:
Coalfielder — J. Roberts (Cessnock).

N. N.S.W. v Chelsea at Newcastle, 15/5/65:
Coalfielders — C. Almond (Cess), T. Sneddon (Cess).

N. N.S.W. v Roma at Newcastle, 3/6/66:
No Coalfielders.

N. N.S.W. v N.S.W. at Speers Point, 1967:
No Coalfielders.

N. N.S.W. v Cardiff City at Newcastle, 15/6/68:
Coalfielder — T. Sneddon (Weston).

N. N.S.W. v Queensland in Queensland, 10/4/68:
Coalfielder — J. Smith (Weston).

N. N.S.W. v Manchester City at Newcastle, 27/5/70:
Coalfielders — R. Johnson (Weston), T. Sneddon (Weston), B. Whitehead (Maitland).

N. N.S.W. v Dynamo Moscow, Newcastle, 1/3/70:
Coalfielders — R. Johnson (Weston), T. Sneddon (Weston), B. Whitehead (Maitland).

N. N.S.W. v Romania Amateurs, Newcastle, 1970:
Coalfielders — R. Johnson (Weston), T. Sneddon (Weston), B. Dumas (Maitland).

N. N.S.W. v Inter Bratislava, Newcastle, 26/1/70:
Coalfielders — R. Johnson (Weston), T. Sneddon (Weston).

N. N.S.W. v Combined Illawarra, Woonona, 29/4/70:
Coalfielders — T. Sneddon (Weston), B. Duma (Maitland), B. Whitehead (Maitland).

N. N.S.W. v N.S.W. at Newcastle, 15/6/70:
Coalfielders — R. Johnson (Weston), T. Sneddon (Weston), B. Whitehead (Maitland).

N. N.S.W. v N.S.W., Sydney, 30/3/70:
Coalfielders — B. Duma (Maitland), B. Whitehead (Maitland).

N. N.S.W. v England at Wallsend, 2/6/71:
Coalfielders — R. Johnson (Weston), T. Sneddon (Weston), J. Bond (Weston), B. Duma (Maitland), B. Whitehead (Maitland).

N. S.W. v Hitachi (Japan), Newcastle, 2/3/73:

Coalfields — F. Wood (Weston), R. Johnson (Weston), T. Sneddon (Weston), A. Cooper (Weston), P. Irving (Weston), B. Duma (Weston), K. Worden (Weston).

N. S.W. v Persidja Jakarta, Newcastle, 1974:

Coalfields — T. Sneddon (Weston), Warren Halverson, James Hogg (Cessnock), P. Irving (Weston), B. Duma (Weston).

N. S.W. v Ferencvaros at Wallsend, 8/2/74:

Coalfields — James Hogg (Cessnock), R. Johnson (Weston), T. Sneddon (Weston), Warren Halverson (Weston), P. Irving (Weston), B. Duma (Weston).

N. S.W. v Auckland at Speers Point, 22/3/74:

Coalfields — James Hogg (Cessnock), T. Sneddon (Weston), W. Halverson (Weston), John Bond (Weston), P. Irving (Weston), Step Kamasz (Weston).

N. S.W. v Aberdeen at Speers Point, 25/5/74:

Coalfields — John Hogg (Cessnock), G. King (Cessnock), T. Sneddon (Weston), W. Halverson (Weston).

N. S.W. v Middlesborough at Newcastle, 18/5/78:

Coalfields — F. Woods (Weston), R. Johnson (Weston), W. Halverson (Weston), T. Sneddon (Weston) Captain, M. Southworth (Cessnock), G. King (Cessnock).

N. S.W. v Tottenham Hotspurs at Newcastle, 12/5/76:

Coalfields — John Hogg (Cessnock), Tom Sneddon (Weston), Mick Davies (Weston), John T. Turnbull (Weston).

Coalfield Juniors 4 v Newcastle Juniors 1, in Newcastle, July 1930:

Coalfields XI — Wilmott (N), J. Horsey (KK), Teece (Weston), J. Liddell (Weston), Hayes (N), W. McWilliams (Cess), Hodge (KK), Shakespeare (N), J. Hartley (Aber), J. Swarbeck (KK), Cameron (Aber). Scorers: Hartley 3, Cameron 1.

Coalfield Officials

W. Beaney (Weston), Manager Australia v English Amateurs at S.C.G. 1st Test in July 1937.

S. Grant (KK), Manager Australia v English Amateurs at N.S.G. 3rd Test in July 1937.

SCORING FEATS

Season 1917

Cessnock — A. Brunskill 11, F. Hancock 8.
Weston Albions — J. Avis 14, W. Tweddle 10.
Weston Magpies — H. Bellamy 12, J. Kell 10.

Season 1918

Cessnock — Alec Renfrew 10.
Weston — J. Avis 12, L. Pugh 10.
Hebburn — J. Paterson 10, J. Duxfield 10.
Neath — A. Willmott 10.

Season 1919

Cessnock — A. Hancock 13, J. Auld 10.
Weston — J. Avis 12, J. Mather 10.
Rothbury — P. Lennard 12, J. Jowett 10.

Season 1920

Weston — J. Avis 12, W. Lambert 8, K. Rodgers 6, J. Jarvie 6.
Cessnock — A. Brunskill 10, J. Clarke 8.
Hebburn — R. Bates 10, J. McCroarey 10.
Rothbury — P. Lennard 11, C. Chippendale 10.

Season 1921

Cessnock — P. Lennard 21, J. Strange 12, L. Brown 10.
Kurri Kurri — J. Pringle 10, K. Rodgers 7.
Weston — J. Avis 11, W. Lambert 8, J. Mather 8.

Season 1922

Cessnock — P. Lennard 17, J. Hancock 7, L. Brown 6.
Kurri Kurri — J. Buchan 12, A. Henderson 7.
Weston — J. Gilmour 17, J. McCroarey 15, T. Oliver 8.
Neath — F. Horne 10.
Abermain — G. Oughton 10.

Season 1923

Cessnock — P. Lennard 15, L. Brown 10, E. Hodge 8.
Kurri Kurri — G. Willetts 11, J. Buchan 10, J. McCrae 9.
Weston — J. McCroarey 20, J. Gilmour 11.
Neath — L. Endean 10, J. Hancock 8.

Season 1924

Cessnock — P. Lennard 16, D. Harden 14, C. Williams 10.
Kurri Kurri — W. Foley 16, A. Phillips 10.
Weston — J. McCroarey 17, J. Wigham 8.
Neath — J. Auld 8, J. Drinkwater 7.

Season 1925

Cessnock — D. Tonner 14, P. Lennard 13, C. Williams 10.
Kurri Kurri — Jack Stewart 14, W. Foley 11, N. Price 10.
Weston — J. McCroarey 19, J. Manion 13.
Neath — R. Harden 12, J. Purcell 8.
Kearsley — G. Wilkinson 12, C. Gregory 9.

Season 1926

Cessnock — P. Lennard 17, C. Williams 15, E. Hodge 10,
L. McNaughton 10.
Kurri Kurri — N. Price 25, H. Pringle 20, A. Phillips 10.
Weston — J. Manion 20, J. McCroarey 17, W. Avis 11.
Aberdare — B. McLaren 26, J. B. Evans 8.
Pelaw Main — J. Hinman 10.
Neath — F. Horne 10.
Kearsley — G. Wilkinson 11.

Season 1927

Aberdare — W. Thomson 12, J. Drinkwater 10.
Cessnock — B. McLaren 23, P. Lennard 19, Jack Wilkinson 10.
Kurri Kurri — N. Price 18, H. Pringle 12.
Weston — J. Manion 32, Jim Williams 15.
Pelaw Main — J. Stewart 12, S. Oliver 10.
Kearsley — J. Rutherford 11.
Neath-Abermain — F. Turner 11, J. Kemp 10.
Hebburn — A. Robertson 10.

1928

**Aberdare* — B. McLaren 22.
**Cessnock* — P. Johns 17, P. Lennard 15, C. Williams 13.
**Kurri Kurri* — N. Price 18.
**Weston* — J. Manion 35, J. McCroarey 12.

1929

**Aberdare* — W. Ross 18, B. McLaren 17, N. Brennan 10,
J. Drinkwater 10.
**Cessnock* — N. Price 39, P. Johns 36, P. Lennard 18,
Jack Wilkinson 14.
**Kurri Kurri* — W. Maunders 50, C. James 50, H. Pringle 10.
**Weston* — J. Williams 45, H. Muir 21, J. Kemp 20.

1930

**Aberdare* — W. Ross 21, J. Drinkwater 12.
**Cessnock* — P. Johns 22, P. Lennard 20, N. Price 14,
B. McLaren 11, Jack Wilkinson 11.
**Kurri Kurri* — H. Pringle 26, J. McCroarey 16, R. Grant 11.
**Weston* — J. Williams 42, J. Kemp 14, H. Biggers 12,
J. Manion 11.

1931

**Aberdare* — J. Drinkwater 10.
**Cessnock* — P. Lennard 11, H. Pringle 10.

**Kurri Kurri* — T. Stoker 14, W. Price 13.
**Weston* — J. Williams 20, J. Manion 11.

1932

**Aberdare* — W. Myers 15.
**Cessnock* — Roy Johns 15, P. Lennard 11.
**Kurri Kurri* — N. Price 10.
**Weston* — J. Williams 24, A. Teece 15, J. Manion 10.

1933

**Aberdare* — W. McGarvie 13.
**Cessnock* — R. Stevenson 10.
**Kurri Kurri* — R. James 10.
**Weston* — J. Williams 18, A. Teece 14, H. Biggers 10.

1934

**Aberdare* — H. Orr 44, T. Rumley 16, W. Lonergan 12,
G. Mullins 11.
**Cessnock* — J. Marsden 19, Cec Mowatt 19, R. Stevenson 13,
E. Callaghan 10, S. Williams 10.
**Kurri Kurri* — W. Price 22, J. Brown 15, C. Madden 15,
V. Barnett 13, R. James 12.
**Weston* — J. Williams 26, J. Kemp 19, Jim Wilkinson 17,
A. Teece 12, A. Perris 10.

1935

**Aberdare* — H. Orr 23.
**Cessnock* — F. Brown 14, G. Turner 12.
**Kurri Kurri* — H. Workman 20, C. Madden 15, V. Barnett 12.
**Weston* — A. Perris 18, J. Kemp 17, Jim Wilkinson 15,
J. Williams 14.

1936

**Aberdare* — F. Brown 14.
**Cessnock* — M. Blane 10.
**Kurri Kurri* — W. Moy 11, O. Nesbitt 10.
**Weston* — R. Stevenson 28, J. Kemp 15, J. Wilkinson 13,
J. Williams 12, J. McCroarey 11, E. Kemp 11.

1937

**Aberdare* — G. Humphris 16.
**Cessnock* — Roy Johns 10 (trans. to Goodyear).
**Kurri Kurri* — K. Nix 13.
**Weston* — J. Kemp 22, J. Leddon 19, J. Marsden 19,
J. Wilkinson 19, J. McCroarey 13, R. Stevenson 10.

1938

**Cessnock* — Gordon Thomson 10.
**Weston* — R. Stevenson 12, J. Leddon 11, J. Wilkinson 11.

1939

**Cessnock* — Gordon Thomson 17.
**Weston* — J. Leddon 15, J. Kemp 14, R. Simons 11,
J. Wilkinson 11.

1940

**Cessnock* — Dave Evans 19, L. Burnett 18.
**Weston* — Alby Jenkins 24, J. Leddon 15.

1941

**Cessnock* — Ray Simons 12.
**Weston* — W. Lonergan 17, J. Leddon 11.

1942

**Cessnock* — Ray Simons 10.
**Kurri Kurri* — T. Partland 10.
**Weston* — J. Leddon 13, Jim Wilkinson 10.

1943

**Cessnock* — J. Drinkwater 17.

**Kurri Kurri* — T. Partland 16.

**Weston* — J. Humble 16.

Abermain — A. Wiseman 10.

Kearsley — A. Jones 13.

Paxton — H. Orr 17, M. Blane 15.

Bellbird — J. Bambach 13.

Aberdare — A. Stewart 10.

1944

Bellbird — S. Miles 10.

Cessnock — J. Drinkwater 22, K. Thomson 17, Dave Evans 13.

Kearsley — A. Green 10.

Kurri Kurri — C. Wolfenden 14, J. Humble 12.

Paxton — H. Orr 12.

Weston — J. Wilkinson 12.

1945

**Cessnock* — J. Drinkwater 18, K. Thomson 13.

**Kurri Kurri* — W. Dunlop 13.

**Weston* — J. Wilkinson 10.

1946

**Cessnock* — J. Drinkwater 25, Cec Mowatt 13, T. Partland 10.

**Kurri Kurri* — R. Edmunds 10.

1947

**Cessnock* — J. Drinkwater 30.

**Kurri Kurri* — R. Simons 14.

1948

Cessnock — J. Drinkwater 31, P. Peters 15, L. Jowett 10.

Kurri Kurri — A. Jenkins 10.

Paxton — R. Thomas 10.

Aberdare — J. Oswald 10.

Bellbird — J. Bambach 21, A. Thomson 14.

Greta — W. Lewis 10.

Greta Main — J. Dryden 11.

Kearsley — J. McLaren 16.

Millfield — A. Brennan 14.

Abermain — G. Lamb 10.

1949

Cessnock — J. Drinkwater 36, P. Peters 25.
Abermain — G. Tomlinson 16, J. McLaren 12.
Kurri Kurri — R. Edmunds 10.

1950

Cessnock — J. Drinkwater 26, T. Partland 12, P. Peters 10.

1951

Cessnock — P. Peters 23, J. Drinkwater 14.
Greta Austral — V. Tancer 54, V. Antak 20, P. Janowski 17, B. Szimilus 10.

1952

Cessnock — J. Drinkwater 21, J. Barr 14.
Greta Austral — V. Tancer 36, J. Horenek 10.
Weston — G. Lamb 10.

1953

Cessnock — J. Drinkwater 28, A. Heaney 13, C. Almond 10.
Greta Austral — V. Tancer 13.
Weston — J. Humble 10.

1954

Cessnock — J. Drinkwater 20, C. Almond 14, J. Porteus 14.
Weston — K. Williams 15.

1955

Cessnock — J. Drinkwater 30, J. Porteus 23.
Weston — J. Humble 16, K. Williams 14.

1956

Cessnock — J. Drinkwater 50, J. Lennard 29, J. Porteus 16, C. Almond 14.
Weston — K. Williams 11.
Bellbird — J. McLaren 10.
Kearsley — D. Powell 11.
Kurri Kurri — L. Archibald 10.

1957

Cessnock — J. Drinkwater 33, J. Lennard 24, J. Barr 19, W. Thomson 12.
Weston — L. McDonald 10.
Kearsley — D. Powell 40, C. Sneddon 11.
Kurri Kurri — L. Archibald 11.
Kurri United — L. Mederith 10.

1958

Cessnock — J. Lennard 24, J. Drinkwater 22, J. Barr 14, J. Porteus 13.
Weston — D. Powell 17.
Kurri Kurri — L. Meredith 11, L. Archibald 10.

1959

Cessnock — J. Lennard 16, C. Almond 15, J. Barr 13, J. Porteus 11.

Kurri Kurri — A. Rowlands 10, M. Yates 10.

Weston — J. Musgrave 10.

1960

Cessnock — A. Simmonds 28, J. Lennard 24, J. Barr 18,
J. Drinkwater 17.

Kearsley — D. Powell 16, A. Rockley 12.

Kurri Kurri — M. Yates 10, W. Rowlands 10.

Weston — M. Hunter 12, A. Falk 10.

1961

Cessnock — J. Lennard 15, C. Almond 13.

Kearsley — E. Wells 13.

Kurri Kurri — R. Archibald 10.

Maitland — R. Knorr 34, M. Baumgartner 22, I. Thompson 21.

Weston — D. Falk 14, J. Sneddon 10.

1962

**Cessnock* — J. Barr 16, J. Lennard 13, A. Johns 10.

Kearsley — D. Powell 18.

Maitland — R. Knorr 19, P. Panicic 14, I. Thompson 10.

Weston — J. Sneddon 11, D. Falk 10.

1963

**Cessnock* — A. Johns 13, J. Barr 12.

**Maitland* — R. Knorr 12, I. Thompson 11.

1964

**Cessnock* — J. Barr 10.

**Maitland* — J. Mieir 21, H. Schneider 21, S. Ellenbecker 19,
K. Simons 19, F. Woods 18, N. Scott 15.

Weston — G. Heaney 11.

1965

**Cessnock* — G. Payne 10.

**Weston* — G. Heaney 12, N. Jackson 12.

Maitland — K. Mirish 10.

1966

Weston — J. Kidd 10.

1967

**Weston* — B. Davies 11.

Bellbird — N. Davies 21, B. Glenn 18, R. Dunne 15.

1968

**Weston* — G. Heaney 12, T. Sloan 10.

Cessnock — B. Davies 14, D. Davis 11, D. Field 10.

1969

**Cessnock* — A. Oswald 11.

**Weston* — G. Heaney 11, Stuart Kamasz 11.

1970

**Cessnock* — R. Howells 10, James Hogg 10.

**Weston* — J. Critchley 10.

Maitland — B. Duma 45, B. Whitehead 44, T. Arrowsmith 17,
A. Roberts 12.

1971

**Cessnock* — R. Varsey 10.

**Maitland* — B. Duma 25, B. Whitehead 13.

**Weston* — J. Sloan 23, K. Worden 11, Stephen Kamasz 10.
Bellbird — J. Roderick 13.

1972

**Maitland* — B. Duma 16.

**Weston* — J. Sloan 29.

Cessnock — A. Oswald 11.

1973

**Cessnock* — M. Southworth 18, P. Mitchell 18, P. Robertson 11,
James Hogg 10.

**Maitland* — P. Arrowsmith 10.

**Weston* — B. Duma 33, Steve Kamasz 17, J. Sloan 14,
P. Irving 13.

1974

**Cessnock* — P. Mitchell 20, James Hogg 14, M. Southworth 12,
P. Robertson 10.

**Weston* — T. Dobson 14, S. Payne 14, P. Irving 14.

Maitland — K. Ellenor 10.

1975

**Weston* — T. Dobson 15, John Turnbull 13.

**Cessnock* — P. Mitchell 12, M. Southworth 13.

Maitland — S. Ellenor 11.

1976

**Cessnock* — P. Mitchell 10.

**Maitland* — K. Boardman 10.

**Weston* — Jack Turnbull 17, J. K. Turnbull 11.

Kurri Kurri — J. Scafer 27, G. Palmer 16, D. Powell 12.

1977

**Maitland* — S. Allen 8.

**Weston* — J. B. Turnbull 22, J. J. Turnbull 16, J. T. Turnbull 13.

Cessnock — P. Mitchell 24.

Kurri Kurri — P. Schofield 12.

1978

**Weston* — C. Harper 13, J. B. Turnbull 12, J. J. Turnbull 10.

Cessnock — G. Pickard 8.

Kurri Kurri — John Duma 26, B. Duma 20, S. Duma 8.

GOAL AGGREGATE

Players of Coalfields origin only

S — Senior goals	J — Junior and school games		
	Senior	Junior	Total
Jack Drinkwater (Cessnock)	466	48	514
Tom Rumley (Aberdare)	239	17	256
Jack Lennard (Cessnock)	225	25	250
Perce Lennard (Cessnock)	216	16	232
Jim Williams (Weston)	205	26	231
John Barr (Kurri Kurri)	172	28	200
Sketa Wilkinson (Weston)	167	22	189
Bill Lonergan (Aberdare)	162	26	188
Gina Pringle (Kurri Kurri)	154	29	183
Noey Price (Kurri Kurri)	157	26	183
Crabbie McCroarey (Weston)	156	26	182
George Keir (Kurri Kurri)	159	22	181
Jim Kemp (Weston)	158	18	176
Hugh Orr (Aberdare)	153	22	175
Jack Manion (Weston)	144	26	170
Vic Tancev (Greta Austral)	128	21	149
*Vic Barnett (Kurri Kurri)	118	26	144
Cliff Almond (Cessnock)	117	23	140
Hugh Workman (Kurri Kurri)	116	24	140
Dixie Biggers (Weston)	107	22	129
*Jack Marsden (Cessnock)	104	20	124
Les Brown (Cessnock)	102	19	121
Stuart James (Kurri Kurri)	101	19	120

REPRESENTATIVE GAMES

(North and Coalfield Teams)

Coalfields 1 v Newcastle 1 at Weston, 1919 — "Influenza Match":
Coalfields XI — H. Smith (Wes), R. Austen (Wes), J. Gilmour (Wes), Dick Austen (Wes), A. Outram (Neath), J. Endean (Neath), J. Bellamy (Wes), A. Russell (Neath), H. Bellamy (Wes), J. Avis (Wes), L. Pugh (Wes).

N.B. G. Willetts (KK), N. Endean (Neath) played with Newcastle XI.

Coalfields 2 v Newcastle 2 at Newcastle, 16/8/19:

Coalfields XI — Bob Austen (Wes), W. Lambert (Wes), L. Pugh (Wes), C. Lewis (Whit), H. Hollingsworth (Wes), Dick Austen (Wes), J. Bellamy (Wes), J. Gilmour (Wes), J. Duxfield (Heb), J. Avis (Wes), J. Endean (Heb). Scorers: J. Avis, J. Gilmour.

North v South Coast at Woonona, 15/4/22:

A. Jones (Cess), G. Williams (Cess), K. Rodgers (KK) 1 goal, P. Lennard (Cess).

Coalfields 4 v Newcastle 1 at Newcastle, 3/9/16:

Coalfields XI — H. Smith (Wes), W. Lambert (Wes), J. Henry (Wes), Dick Austen (Wes), J. Seddon (Heb), J. Duxfield (Heb), D. Clarke (KK), J. Avis (Wes), G. Hancock (Cess), A. Brunskill (Cess), C. Davis (Cess). Goals by Brunskill, Avis, Duxfield, Hancock.

Coalfields 1 v Newcastle 3 at Weston, 14/10/16:

Coalfields XI: H. Smith (Wes), C. Campbell (Wes), J. Henry (Wes), J. Duxfield (Heb), Dick Austen (Wes), J. Taft (Heb), J. Taylor (Wes), J. Avis (Wes), W. Lambert (Wes), A. Brunskill (Cess), W. Tweddle (Wes). Scorer: J. Duxfield.

Coalfields 2 v Newcastle 1 at Blackburn Oval, 7/7/17:

Coalfields XI: Bob Austen (Wes), J. Thomson (Cess), G. Campbell (Wes), J. Duxfield (Wes), W. Lambert (Wes), Dick Austen (Wes), H. Bellamy (Wes), A. Brunskill (Cess), J. Avis (Wes), A. Renfrew (Cess), J. Bellamy (Wes). Scorers: Avis, Brunskill.

Coalfields 3 v Newcastle 2 at Weston, 10/11/17:

Coalfields XI — H. Smith (Wes), W. Lambert (Wes), J. Thomson (Cess), Dick Austen (Wes), J. Strong (Cess), J. Duxfield (Wes), C. Davis (Cess), A. Brunskill (Cess), G. Hancock (Cess), J. Avis (Wes), Bob Austen (Wes). Scorers: Avis, Brunskill, Hancock.

Coalfields 3 v Newcastle 0 at Weston, 6/6/18:

Coalfields XI — Bob Austen (Wes), J. Thomson (Cess), W. Lambert (Wes), Dick Austen (Wes), G. Rennex (Cess), J. Duxfield (Heb), A. Brunskill (Cess), J. Avis (Wes), G. Hancock (Cess), J. Kennedy (Abermain), A. Hodges (Whitburn). Scorers: Hodges (2), Duxfield.

Coalfields 0 v Newcastle 0 at Newcastle, 3/8/18:

Coalfields XI — Bob Austen (Wes), J. Thomson (Cess), Lambert (Wes), Dick Austen (Wes), Hollingsworth (Wes), Duxfield (Heb), Rennex (Cess), Avis (Wes), Brunskill (Cess), A. Hodges (Whitburn).

Coalfields 4 v Newcastle 0 at Newcastle, 30/9/19:

Coalfields XI — Bob Austen (Wes), J. Thomson (Cess), G. Campbell (Wes), J. Duxfield (Heb), G. Rennex (Cess), J. Kennedy (Abermain), J. Avis (Wes), R. McNaughton (Heb), G. Hancock (Cess), A. Brunskill (Cess), Alf Hodges (Whit). Scorers: Avis, Hancock, Brunskill, Hodge.

North 2 v Queensland 1 at Newcastle, 23/6/13:

Coalfielders — J. Thomson (Cess) Captain, J. Clarke (Cess).

North 2 v Sydney 1 at Newcastle, 24/6/14:

Coalfields players — Jim Thomson (Cess) Captain, J. Stoker (Wes), D. Clarke (KK).

North 2 v Sydney 3 in Sydney, 26/7/14:

Coalfielders — J. Thomson (Cess) Captain, J. Stoker (Wes), Dave Clark (KK), J. Clarke (Cess). Scorer: D. Clark.

North 2 v Sydney 2 at Newcastle, 24/5/15:

Coalfielders — Jim Thomson (Cess) Captain, J. Laird (Cess), D. Clark (KK), J. Gilmour (Wes), J. Bellamy (Wes).

North XI 0 v Sydney 0 — Sydney, 7/6/15:

Coalfielders — A. Ramage (KK), J. Laird (Cess), D. Clark (KK), J. Gilmour (Wes), Lambert (Wes).

North 4 v H.M.S. Renown 1 — Newcastle, 4/6/21:

Coalfielders — Bob Austen (Wes), W. Lambert (Wes).

North 5 v South Coast at Woonona, 15/4/22:

Coalfielders — F. Jones (Cess), G. Williams (Cess), K. Rodgers (KK), P. Lennard (Cess). Scorer: Rodgers.

North 3 v Sydney 1 — Sydney, 7/5/22:

Coalfielders — Bob Austen (Wes), G. Williams (Cess), R. Henderson (KK), P. Lennard (Cess).

Coalfields 3 v Newcastle 0 — Newcastle, 3/11/22:

Coalfields XI — F. Jones (Cess), G. Williams (Cess), T. Oliver (Wes), G. Rowe (Cess), J. Martin (Wes), R. Henderson (KK), E. Williams (Cess), P. Lennard (Cess), J. McCroarey (Wes), J. Gilmour (Wes), L. Brown (Cess). Scorers: McCroarey, Gilmour, Brown.

Coalfields 0 v Newcastle 3 — Newcastle, 11/4/23:

Coalfields XI — M. Sternbeck (Neath), G. Jones (Neath), T. Oliver (Wes), G. Rowe (Cess), A. Creighton (Wes) Captain, W. Mathieson (Cess), S. Wells (KK), L. Brown (Cess), J. McCroarey (Wes), J. Gilmour (Wes), R. McNaughton (Cess).

In 1913, a Combined North XI was selected to tour Queensland.

Tour sanctioned and then cancelled by Sydney authorities. Action caused adverse comment in both States.

Coalfields players included in team were: Jim Thomson (Cess) Captain, G. W. Hindmarsh (Wes), R. Elgey (Cess), W. Stoker (Wes), W. Brown (Cess), Wal Thomson (Cess). Players were later awarded caps.

North 9 v British Squadron 2 at Newcastle, 16/4/24:

Coalfielders — T. Oliver (Wes), A. Phillips (KK), J. Gilmour (Wes), R. McNaughton (Cess). Scorers: Gilmour 2, McNaughton 1.

Coalfields 1 v Canada 1 at Cessnock, 24/4/24:

Coalfields XI — Bob Austen (Wes), Oliver (Wes), G. Williams (Cess), Durie (Cess), G. Slarks (Cess), R. Bower (KK), C. Williams (Cess), J. McCroarey (Wes), W. Foley (KK), J. Gilmour (Wes), J. Manion (Wes). Scorer: C. Williams.

North 3 v Sydney 0 at Newcastle, 1/5/26:

Official Opening of Hobart Park —

Coalfielders — F. Wilson (KK), P. Hogan (Cess), McCroarey (Wes), McNaughton (Cess). Scorers: McCroarey, Hogan.

Coalfields 0 v China 0 at Cessnock, 27/7/27:

Coalfielders — H. Ashcroft (KK), W. Victor (Cess), J. Farrey (KK), T. Shakespeare (Aberdare), J. B. Evans (Aberdare), T. Hill (Aberdare), J. Williams (Wes), J. Manion (Wes), S. Masters (KK), R. Gibson (Wes), H. Pringle (KK).

Coalfields 3 v China 3 at Kurri 29/7/27:

Coalfields XI — H. Ashcroft (KK), J. Beddow (KK), E. Hodge (Cess), S. Kidd (KK), C. Thompson (Wes), J. Evans (Aberdare), J. Williams (Wes), J. Mackay (KK), N. Price (KK), J. Manion (Wes), Drinkwater (Aberdare). Scorer: Manion 3.

Coalfields 4 v China 2 at Weston, 6/9/27:

Coalfields XI — H. Ashcroft (KK), J. Farrey (KK), J. Beddow (KK), S. Kidd (KK), C. Thompson (Wes), J. Evans (Aber), N. Brennan (Aber), S. Weir (Aber), J. Manion (Wes), H. Pringle (KK), Drinkwater (Aber). Scorers: Manion 3, Evans 1.

Coalfields 2 v Weston 1 at Weston, 10/9/20 — Hick's Testimonial:

Coalfields XI — H. Smith (Heb), N. Tiedman (Roth), Baldwin (Neath), Reg Lennard (Roth), J. Strang (Neath), S. Davidson (KK), S. Price (Roth), J. Auld (Heb), P. Lennard (Roth), J. Carley (KK), A. O'Hara (Roth). Scorers: Carley, Auld.

Coalfields 3 v Newcastle 5 at Wallsend, 7/6/29:

Coalfields XI — Bob Austen (Cess), J. Beddow (KK), W. Sterritt (Aber), J. McCroarey (Wes), H. Walters (Wes), J. Evans (Aber), C. James (KK), P. Lennard (Cess), W. Maunders (KK), P. Johns (Cess), Jack Wilkinson (Cess). Scorers: Maunders, Lennard, Johns.

East Coalfields v West Coalfields at Cessnock, 7/6/31:

East — J. McNabb (Wes), J. Horsey (KK), P. Harris (Wes), C. Foulkes (KK), C. Thompson (Wes), T. Warren (KK), Jim Wilkinson (Wes), J. Hartley (KK), J. Kemp (Wes), H. Biggers (Wes), W. Walker (Wes).

West — P. Cahill (Cess), J. Evans (Cess), J. Wallace (Cess), E. Odgers (Aber), J. Taylor (Cess), W. Sterritt (Aber), C. Williams (Cess), S. Jenkins (Aber), Roy Johns (Cess), S. Weir (Aber), R. McNaughton (Cess).

Coalfields 4 v Newcastle 3 at Weston, 16/5/31:

Coalfields XI — J. McNabb (Wes), A. Henwood (Aber), J. Evans (Cess), C. Thompson (Wes), C. Foulkes (KK), W. Ross (Aber), J. Manion (Wes), P. Lennard (Cess), Jim Williams (Wes), Bill Price (KK), J. Drinkwater (Aber). Scorers: Williams 2, Lennard, Price.

Coalfields v Tasmania at Weston, 1932:

Coalfields XI — McDonald (Cess), W. Whitelaw (Wes), J. Wallace (Cess), R. Gibson (Wes), J. Kemp (Wes), W. Victor (Wes), Jim Wilkinson (Wes), A. Teece (Wes), R. Johns (Cess), H. Pringle (KK), J. Leddon (Wes).

Coalfields v Queensland at Cessnock, 1932:

Coalfields — T. McDonald (Cess), E. Hodge (Cess), J. Whitelaw (Cess), J. Gibson (Wes), J. Kemp (Wes), W. Victor (Wes), J. Wilkinson (Wes), P. Lennard (Cess), R. Johns (Cess), H. Pringle (KK), G. Hall (KK). Scorers: E. Hodge, R. Johns, H. Pringle.

North v English Amateurs at Cessnock, 1937:

Coalfields — J. Harden (Wes), E. Kemp (Wes), J. Wilkinson (Wes), C. Mowatt (Cess), H. Pringle (KK), V. Barrett (KK), E. Hodge (Cess).

National Trial — Sydney, 10/6/38:

Coalfields —
N.S.W.: J. McNabb (Wes), P. Harris (Wes).
Rest: H. Pringle (KK).

North v Palestine at Cessnock, 1939:

Coalfields: J. A. Drinkwater (Wes), T. Shakespeare (Wes), J. Kemp (Wes), G. Thomson (Cess), W. Lonergan (Cess), L. Burnett (Cess), T. Jurd (Cess).

North v Palestine at Cessnock, 1939:

Coalfields — W. Inglis (Cess), P. Harris (Wes), J. Wilkinson (Wes), W. Lonergan (Cess), E. Callaghan (Cess).

North v India at Newcastle, 1938:

Coalfielders — E. Kemp (Wes), J. Kemp (Wes), C. Hamilton (Cess), Cec Mowatt (Cess), R. Stevenson (Wes).

North v Victoria at Wallsend, 6/5/40:

Coalfielders — J. McNabb (Wes), J. A. Drinkwater (Wes), Jim Wilkinson (Wes), L. Burnett (Cess).

Soccer Trial — Sydney, 25/4/41:

Coalfielder — N.S.W.: Jim Wilkinson (Wes).

North v China at Newcastle, 7/6/41:

Coalfielders — W. Lonergan (Wes), L. Burnett (Cess).

Coalfields v China at Cessnock, 1941:

Coalfields XI — H. Lonsdale (Cess), R. Means (Wes), T. Jurd (Cess), Jack Wilkinson (Wes), J. Kemp (Wes), J. Marshall (Cess), Jim Wilkinson (Wes), J. Kiers (Cess), W. Lonergan (Wes), J. Leddon (Wes), T. Humphris (Cess).

Country v City at Woonona, 8/8/44:

Coalfielders — C. Hamilton (Wes), J. Drinkwater (Cess).

South Coast v The Rest at Woonona, 15/8/44:

Coalfielder — Jim Wilkinson (Wes) Captain.

North v Sydney at Wallsend, 6/6/45:

Coalfielders — J. Rostrom (Wes), Jim Wilkinson (Wes) Captain, J. Drinkwater (Cess).

Coalfields v Newcastle at Wallsend, 2/5/45:

Coalfields XI — L. Falk (KK), R. Maxwell (Wes), L. Hearne (KK), K. O'Neill (Cess), Jim Thomson (Cess), R. Stewart (Wes), Jim Wilkinson (Wes), Keith Thomson (Cess), C. Wolfenden (KK), Dave Evans (Cess), L. Burnett (Cess).

N.S.W. v Rest at Sydney, 3/4/47 — (Trial Game):

Coalfielders — N.S.W.: K. O'Neill (Cess). Rest: L. Hearne (Cess).

North v South Africa at Cessnock, 13/5/47:

Coalfields — L. Hearne (Cess), P. Peters (Cess), Dave Evans (Cess), K. O'Neill (Cess), Ray Simons (KK).

North v South Africa at Newcastle, 3/6/47:

Coalfields: Dave Evans (Cess), K. O'Neill (Cess), C. Wood (KK).

North v South Africa at New Lambton, 25/7/47:

Coalfields — W. Harris (KK), Dave Evans (Cess) Captain, K. O'Neill (Cess), J. Drinkwater (Cess), C. Wood (KK).

Coalfields v Sydney (Plummer Cup) — 19/9/48:

Coalfields — L. Falk (Cess), W. Moy (KK) Captain, C. Almond (Cess), Jack Wilkinson (KK), A. Purdon (KK), K. McLennan (Cess), W. Thomson (Cess), P. Peters (Cess), J. Drinkwater (Cess), K. O'Neill (Cess), J. Falk (KK).

Coalfields v Sydney (Plummer Cup Final) — 3/10/48:

Coalfields — L. Falk (Cess), W. Moy (KK), C. Almond (Cess), Jack Wilkinson (KK), A. Purdon (KK), K. McLennan (Cess), W. Thomson (Cess), K. O'Neill (Cess), J. Drinkwater (Cess), P. Peters (Cess), J. Falk (KK). Scorer: J. Drinkwater 4.

Coalfields v Newcastle at Cessnock (Plummer Cup) — 3/5/48:

Coalfields — L. Falk (Cess), K. O'Neill (Cess), W. Harris (KK), K. McLennan (Cess), C. Wood (KK), A. Purdon (KK), R. Maxwell (Cess), P. Peters (Cess), J. Drinkwater (Cess), D. Evans (KK), J. Falk (KK).

Coalfields v Newcastle at Adamstown (Plummer Cup) — 10/6/48:

Coalfields — L. Falk (Cess), K. O'Neill (Cess), W. Harris (KK), K. McLennan (Cess), D. Evans (KK), A. Purdon (KK), R. Simons (KK), J. Lennard (Cess), J. Drinkwater (Cess), P. Peters (Cess), J. Falk (KK).

Northern Trial — Wallsend, 22/7/48:

Possible: R. Maxwell (Cess), K. McLennan (Cess), J. Drinkwater (Cess).

Probable: L. Falk (Cess), W. Harris (KK), A. Purdon (KK), J. Lennard (Cess).

National Trial —

North v Rest of Australia at New Lambton, 12/6/48:

Coalfields — K. McLennan (Cess), J. Drinkwater (Cess).

National Trial — Wallsend, 13/6/48:

Rest of Australia — L. Falk (Cess), K. O'Neill (Cess).

National Trial — Sydney, 14/6/48:

Coalfielder — K. O'Neill (Cess).

North v Yugoslavia at Cessnock, 1949:

Coalfields — L. Hearne (Cess), O'Neill (Cess), J. Drinkwater (Cess).

National Trial — Sydney, 2/9/50 and 3/9/50:

Coalfields —

Australia: K. O'Neill (Cess) 2 games.

N.S.W.: C. Almond (Cess) 2 games.

National Trial — Sydney, 9/5/51:

Australia: K. O'Neill (Cess)

N.S.W.: C. Almond (Cess).

National Trial — Sydney, 19/5/51:

Australia: A. Purdon (Cess), P. Peters (Cess).

Northern Trial — Wallsend, 20/4/52:

Possible XI — C. Almond (Cess), M. Willick (Greta A), T. Mosher (Greta A).

Probable XI — A. Purdon (Cess), V. Tancer (Greta A), V. Antak (Greta A), J. Horenec (Greta A).

Interstate Carnival — Adelaide, 16/4/54:

Coalfielders — C. Almond (Cess) 5 games, 1 goal; J. Lennard (Cess) 3 games, 5 goals; K. O'Neill (Cess) 4 games.

North v Austria Rapids — Cessnock, 13/7/55:

Coalfielders — C. Almond (Cess), K. O'Neill (Cess), Johnny Barr (Cess), J. Drinkwater (Cess).

North v Blackpool — Cessnock, 20/5/58:

Coalfielders — J. Pettigrew (Cess), K. O'Neill (Cess), C. Almond (Cess).

North v Hearts — Newcastle, 1959:

Coalfielders — W. Whitelaw (Cess), J. Barr (Cess), K. O'Neill (Cess).

Interstate Carnival, 1963 —

N.S.W. v West Australia at Perth, 13/4/63:

Coalfielder: J. Barr (Cess) 1 goal.

N.S.W. v Queensland at Newcastle, 6/5/63:

Coalfielders — J. Barr (Cess), J. Roberts (Cess).

N.S.W. v Victoria — Melbourne, 10/6/63:

Coalfielder — J. Roberts (Cess).

N.S.W. Interstate Carnival, 1964 —

v N.S.W. at Newcastle, 5/10/64:

Coalfielder — Tom Sneddon (Cess).

v Tasmania at Newcastle, 26/8/64:

Coalfielder — Tom Sneddon (Cess).

v South Australia at Newcastle, 3/10/64:

Coalfielder — Tom Sneddon (Cess).

HIGH HONOURS

Players to captain Australia in the international sphere are:

J. B. Evans (Aberdare, Cessnock, Goodyear)

v India 1938; v China 1941.

K. O'Neill (Cessnock)

v Hearts of Midlothian 1959.

A. Heaney (Cessnock, Wallsend, Newcastle)

v South Africa 1947.

STATE CAPTAINS

Bill Lambert (Weston)

N.S.W. v Queensland in 1921-22.

Jack Avis (Weston)

N.S.W. v China 1923.

P. Creighton (Weston)

N.S.W. v Queensland 1923

Jim Thomson Snr. (Cessnock)

N.S.W. v Queensland 1915.

Jack Taylor (Aberdare)

N.S.W. v Queensland 1931.

SAD DAYS AT WESTON

Since the Weston Club was founded over 70 years ago, it has had many joys — but in stark contrast, it has had many moments of sorrow. Its glorious cavalcade of triumphs has been punctuated with tragic occurrences which have struck at intervals to bring the club to its knees. But with traditional pluck, it has weathered these crises. Probably, the blow which hit the club with its greatest grief was the loss of its stalwart skipper, Bill Lambert, when he was at the height of his playing career. Gloom and anxiety like black clouds hovered over the town when the news leaked out that Lambert had been critically injured by a fall of coal in Hebburn No. 1. That was on Tuesday, 22nd November, 1921. Production ceased and all hands turned towards rescuing Lambert, who was taken to nearby Kurri hospital.

Despite all medical skills and sympathetic nursing, Lambert, after a valiant effort to survive, passed away.

A pall of sadness spread right across the soccer firmament.

The funeral cortege was one of the biggest seen in the North since Les Darcy died and was buried at East Maitland.

Thousands invaded the town and a panorama of sadness, bowed heads and damped eyes followed to the Kurri Cemetery.

Here an eloquent tribute was paid by Rev. D. Wetherall, Methodist Clergyman from the Kurri Kurri Circuit.

Mr. Wetherall said, "We have all congregated here in deep sorrow to honour a worthy citizen, a footballer of high rank, a leader of men — on and off the field, whose career has been cut off by this tragic occurrence. Let me tell you that for four days, Lambert battled manfully to live on but in the end he heard the referee's final whistle.

"His passing leaves a lesson to us all — be prepared at all times to play the game for the game's sake. 'Be modest in victory and generous in defeat' was his motto. As poet Byron once wrote, 'I must sleep now'. Vale Bill Lambert — the Pride of Weston."

Bill Hicks, a regular fullback in the war years, wore the Albion colours with distinction. A master of positional play, he pinned his opponents into positions where his goal was safe.

One can still hear his vocal appeal, "Wa ball!" when claiming a throw-in.

When he retired, Hicks proved a keen trainer, but his untimely death following a fatal fall from a horse added sorrow before the 1922 season had ended.

George Kennedy, who followed Hicks as trainer, was fatally injured in a mine accident. George played his senior football with Abermain and twice won inter-district honours. A great optimist, George was liked by all.

A Weston supporter, old Jack Winning, who lived in nearby Kurri, never missed a game at the Homestead. After a thrilling encounter against Wallsend, when three players were ordered off, Jack collapsed on his way home. Jack played in the very first soccer game in the North at Lambton Park in 1883. He was the first goalkeeper for the once famous Minmi Rangers, 1883-1890.

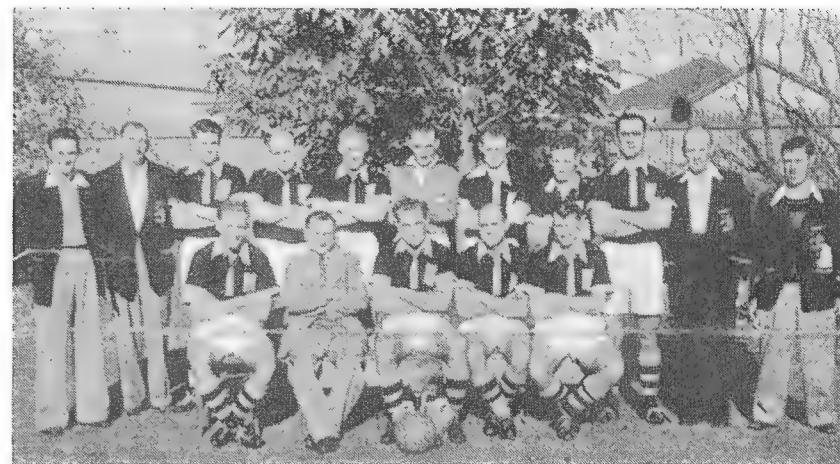
Then Mr. George Mather, Under Manager at Hebburn Colliery, collapsed and died after a keen and exciting match at the Homestead between Weston and Merewether. He had served the club faithfully as president, this was in 1924.

However, two years previously, lightning struck a galvanised dressing shed at the Homestead late in September, 1922. Two were killed — Peter Coppick, a former English player who was ready to win the code's highest honours, and a junior, Gordon Hatfield, aged 16 years. Four others were injured and rushed to hospital.

In 1938 another blow when centre forward Rex Stevenson was accidentally killed while on a shooting excursion. Stevenson was secured from Cessnock in 1935 and in 84 appearances in the "Black and White" stripe, Stevenson scored 66 goals — an excellent consistent form for such a youthful player.

In 1970 another tragic blow when Tom Brown, a former Scot professional winger who joined Weston in 1968, was drowned whilst on a holiday at Surfers' Paradise.

Brown proved a very penetrative type of winger who made 50 first grade appearances with the "Bears".



CESSNOCK CITY SOCCER FOOTBALL CLUB
1956 — State and Northern Premiers
Back Row: J. Barr, G. Jack, J. Pettigrew, J. Drinkwater, W. Edwards, J. Nelson, C. Almond, W. Thomson, A. Heaney, T. Jones (Taff), T. McCreadie.
Front Row: J. Lennard, A. Thomson, K. O'Neill, W. Henderson, J. Porteus.



CESSNOCK 1960 TEAM
Back Row: B. Schroeder, B. Williams, M. Willoughby, J. Nelson, A. Simmonds, W. Edwards, J. Barr.
Front Row: C. Almond, A. Johns, D. Bright, J. Lennard.



KURRI KURRI B.F.C. — Winners of 3rd Grade Medals, 1908

*Back Row: J. Morrison, G. Johns, E. Cox, A. Orchard, J. Matick.
Second Row: A. Chappel, T. Roddom, J. Hodley, J. Mohr, G. Lamb, J. Stevenson.
Front Row: J. Morgan, W. Orchard, C. Grimson (Captain), T. Morrison,
W. Bower.*

KURRI KURRI UNDER-18 — PREMIERS, 1918

*Back Row: J. Wallwork (Coach), S. Stanmore, J. Stevenson (Treasurer), S. Field (Secretary).
3rd Row: V. McLean (Trainer), E. Ace, S. Grant, F. Forster, E. Searston, E. Crosby (Trainer).
2nd Row: S. Ross (Supporter), G. Charlton (Patron), C. Wilson, P. Lennard (Captain), A. Reese, S. Moroney (Manager), H. Spears (Vice-President).
Front Row: G. Willets, R. Field (Mascot), K. Rodgers.
Absent: W. Evans and W. Morgan (President).*



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ANNUAL REPORT
and
BALANCE SHEET



OF THIS

Kurri Kurri
Soccer Football Club
FOR SEASON 1926.

OFFICE BEARERS

Patron: J. JOHNSTONE ESQ.

President: S. GRANT ESQ.

Hon. Treasurer: T. ARMSTRONG.

Hon. Sec. G. WINSHIP.

"Kurri Kurri Times" Print.

Northern District British Football Association
and the South Mailand British Football Association.

Souvenir
Programme

Souvenir
Programme

Price. 6d.

THIRD TEST MATCH
England v. Australia



MAITLAND SHOWGROUND
SATURDAY, JULY 11, 1925
AT 3 p.m.

INTERDISTRICT FIXTURES
RESERVE GRADE

NEWCASTLE v. MAITLAND — at 1.30 p.m.

SCHOOLS FIXTURE

NEWCASTLE v. MAITLAND — at 12.15 p.m.

A. A. STIRLING Presidents: W. WRIGHT
J. EARP. Hon Secs. P. J. SHEPPARD, Hon Secs.

H. COHEN, Printer, Tudor-street, Hamilton. Phone: 672.

GARDINER CUP ON COALFIELDS

All the writer's early soccer interests were seen on the once famous Homestead Ground.

Those were schoolboy days and forgive me if I describe the year 1918 as "*Annus Mirabilis*" — just Latin for "year of great wonders". That is how it made me feel! Sixty years have silently slipped away since the Weston United Club won the doyen of all soccer trophies — the Gardiner Cup.

The rest of the State wondered how such an achievement could occur where such honours went to a small mining town where a group of British migrants brought with them, as well as their working skills, a deeply rooted desire to play soccer — "the major sport of their beloved homeland".

It must be realised that during the war years, 1915-1918, no senior series were conducted in the North. Instead an "All Aged" premiership which allowed competing teams to include five seniors and six juniors. For example, Weston had in 1916 two teams, Weston A and Weston B — in 1917 it had Weston Magpies and Weston Albions and in 1918 it was Weston and Hebburn. Early in 1918, public patronage dwindled, so President, George Avis Senr., suggested that the club enter the Gardiner Cup. When the Sydney officials, Messrs. Lincoln, Humphreys and Booth, agreed that the two Weston clubs could unite for the Cup series, a hurried meeting of Weston and Hebburn officials was called and the following plan adopted —

1. That the entry be in the name of Weston United.
2. That official colours be that of Hebburn — pale blue with gold star on left breast.
3. That an independent selection committee of non-players be chosen.
4. That Bill Tweddle of Hebburn be the Official Secretary.

The plan caused an upsurge of sporting interest as the entries were made known. There were eleven — Canterbury, Annandale, Pyrmont, Y.M.C.A., Balmain Kiora, Balmain Fernleigh (6). Adamstown, West Wallsend and Wallsend (3) from Newcastle, and Weston and Cessnock (2) from the Coalfields.

Weston drew a bye in first round — then crashed Wallsend by 5 to nil, only to have the tie replayed — but Weston won by 1 to nil.

In the semi-final draw, Weston downed Cessnock by 3 to 1, while in Sydney, Kiora outed Pyrmont by 4 to 1 after two draws — 1 all and 3 all.

The final was played at Lilybride, Forest Lodge on 21st September, 1918 and drew a gate of £210 at one shilling a male, ladies free.

Weston squad travelled to Sydney on Friday night. The following teams lined up —

Balmain Kiora: A. Cornwall, G. Smart, G. Leckie, A. Creighton, E. Ferrier, J. White, C. Hansen, A. Craig, W. Lyons, A. Forbes, J. Hayman.

Weston United: Bob Austen, Bill Lambert (Captain), Jack Henry, Dick Austen, Harry Hollingsworth, Jack Duxfield, Bill Beverley, Len Pugh, Jack Avis, Andy McNaughton, Jim Bellamy. Reserves: Herb Bellamy, Jack Shields.

A strong breeze blew directly from goal to goal and Lambert elected to play with the breeze.

Two fastish shots from Avis and Pugh rattled the uprights but it was nil all at the interval.

Henry was a 'flu victim and was only fielded after special medical treatment. He was out of touch early but recovered to play a blinder. With the wind, Kiora set up a consistent series of attacks on the Coalies' citadel and only superb goalkeeping by Austen plus efficient covering tactics by Henry and Lambert kept them off the scoreboard. In the 73rd minute, Henry put a long clearance to winger Beverley, who careered along touch to centre. The wind blew the ball back 20 yards to Duxfield who banged the ball into the net.

Seven minutes later, Henson scooped the ball into the net but referee Kay of Sydney ruled player off-side. This decision caused a scene as Balmain players and officials crowded around the referee, who stuck to his guns. Play was suspended for seven minutes till spectators left the playing area. Then Weston concentrated on defence till the final whistle.

Minutes later, Balmain officials entered a protest on three grounds:

1. That several of Weston's players were not club players.
2. That referee had erred in awarding a goal to Duxfield (Weston) who was yards off-side.
3. That referee erred in refusing to recognise Hansen's goal.

The State Executive ruled out the protest, while an appeal to the State Full Council was rejected.

The return to Weston by train on Sunday night was a typical North of England welcome for the winning team. Church services

were shortened to allow everyone to crowd the local railway station. Special music was provided by the Weston Town Band.

Special praise was given to trainer, Bob Dickman, and secretary, Bill Tweddle. Details of the team which contained nine Englishmen and two Aussies —

Bob Austen — Dawden — County of Durham;
Jack Henry — Hetton — County of Durham;
Bill Lambert — Woolsingham — County of Durham;
Dick Austen — Seaham Harbour — County of Durham;
Harry Hollingsworth — Forest of Dee — Midlands;
Jack Duxfield — Newsham — Northumberland;
Bill Beverley — Brownhill — County of Durham;
Len Pugh — Minmi (Australia);
Jack Avis — Hetton-on-Wall — Northumberland;
Andy McNaughton — Adamstown (Australia);
Jim Bellamy — Ashington — Northumberland.

Reserves:

Jack Shields — Wallsend (Australia);
Herb Bellamy — Ashington — Northumberland.

Trainer: Bob Dickman — County of Durham.

CLUB HONOURS

Under N.D.B.F.A. (1st Division)

FINAL WINNERS —

1923 — Weston
1925 — Cessnock
1927 — Cessnock

PREMIERS —

1907 — Pelaw Main
1911 — Cessnock
1912 — Cessnock
1916 — Cessnock
1917 — Weston Albions
1924 — Cessnock (shared with Wallsend)
1927 — Cessnock

ELLIS CUP —

1911 — Cessnock
1912 — Cessnock
1916 — Cessnock
1927 — Cessnock

KERR CUP —

1923 — Cessnock
1927 — Cessnock

HAMPDON CUP —

1910 — Cessnock

HEMMINGS CUP —

1918 — Weston
1919 — Weston

S. MAITLAND PREMIERSHIP —

1943 — Kurri Kurri

2nd Division

1912 — Weston

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

"Penalty King"

Title given to George "Tup" Rennex, who played competitive soccer for 25 years.

In his long and illustrious career, he scored 60 goals from the "spot kick".

His record shows —

1906 — Minmi Trilbys — 3 goals
1907 — Minmi Trilbys — 9 goals
1908 — Minmi Wanderers — 6 goals
1909 — Minmi Wanderers — 6 goals
1910 — Minmi 3rds — 7 goals
1911 — Minmi 2nds — 5 goals
1912-1924 — Cessnock — 21 goals
1925 — Neath — 2 goals.

Later became Cessnock's secretary.

• • •

Trio in Tests

Weston had three representatives in the Australian team which toured New Zealand in 1936 —

Jim McNabb (goalie) 3 Tests;
Jim Harden (centre half) 3 Tests;
Jim Wilkinson (right wing) 3 Tests.

• • •

Popular Coalfielder Ray Simons (Kurri Kurri) played in every 11 positions in his first grade career. Served in R.A.A.F. for years and helped soccer there. A keener player never lined up on a soccer field. Now living in Aberdare.

• • •

First Coalfields team to appear in Gardiner Cup was Greta Bluebells in 1890 — beaten by Minmi Rangers by 1 to nil.

• • •

In 1940 season, Cessnock included four goalkeepers in four successive games — W. Inglis, J. Broadbent, J. Elvin and H. Lonsdale.

• • •

In 1940, Cessnock had four brothers, Keith, Jim, Gordon and Angus Thomson v Newcastle City at Newcastle Sports Ground No. 2. Sons of former State skipper, Jim Thomson.

In 1924, Cessnock included three brothers, George, Ern and Cec Williams, in nine games in Newcastle senior premiership.

Three brothers, Bob, Andy and Tom Henderson played for Kurri Kurri v Newcastle at Drill Hall in 1926.

In six matches in the 1941 series, Weston had three sets of brothers in its line-up: Ern and Jim Kemp; Jim and Jack Wilkinson; Ken and Jack Leddon.

During World War I, Weston Albions and Weston Magpies fielded brothers in goals: Wes Smith and Herb Smith.

In State Cup semi-final, Merewether v Paxton at Newcastle, three sets of brothers participated in the tie. Joe and Dave Marshall, Hugh and Joe Orr (Paxton), Bill and Mick Daly (Merewether).

In the same tie, the five Paxton forwards were all cousins — Jim Marshall, Joe Orr, Hugh Orr, Mick Blane and Dave Marshall.

Making his debut in senior soccer, Lyall Rees (Kurri) scored 7 goals v Canterbury at Kurri in 1928. Rees scored a goal off his first kick.

Jack Manion of Weston scored 18 seconds after the kick-off v Aberdare at the Homestead in 1929.

In State Cup tie, Cessnock v Speers Point in 1933, Speers Point led by 4 to 1 at half-time. In a rally, Cessnock ran out winners by 5 to 4. Marsden hit hat-trick in eight minutes.

There was a referees' strike in the North after 3rd series in 1933. Substitute referees acted and the strike collapsed.

In the 1929 Statewide premiership, W. Maunders and C. James of Kurri both scored 50 goals — a record which still stands.

In the mid-thirties, Weston played brothers Jim and Ellis Wilkinson, both of whom were deaf and dumb. Both were products of Darlington Deaf and Dumb teams.

In 1933, Kurri lost all the 14 matches played, its worst record ever.

Kurri's best sequence was from 11th May to 31st August, 1929 with 16 wins and one draw.

From season 1928 to 1930, Cessnock won 27 and drew one in a long series of successes.

Kurri's best away record was in 1929-1930 when the Tricolours won 10 and drew two away games in succession.

First hat-trick when first State League began in 1928 was by Jack Manion of Weston in second series v Kurri on the Homestead.

Longest shot to enter net was by "Tup" Rennex (Cessnock) v Weston at Weston in 1922 — 55 yards into net for winning goal.

In the fight for the 1929 State premiership, two Coalfields clubs, Kurri Kurri and Cessnock, topped the century of goals — Kurri scored 125 and Cessnock 111.

When Weston Albions met Weston Magpies at Abermain in 1917, police guarding the Abermain Colliery were called to quell a riot among spectators. Match ended in 1 all draw.

Smith brothers — both goalies — Herb (Weston Magpies) and Wesley (Weston Albions) played in the 1917-18 seasons.

In the State Cup tie on 8/8/42, West Wallsend beat Weston by 7 to 5. At half-time, Westy led by 3 to 1, so both teams added four goals each in the second half. This is a record.

One of Australia's best goalies, Norm Conquest, made his senior debut for Aberdare v Waratah M on 1/4/35. It was no April Fools' Day for Norm Conquest, for he saved two penalties.

The first ex-pupil of Maitland Boys' High School to represent Australia at soccer was Tommy Oliver of Weston. He attended the High School in 1917. He died in Weston in 1978.

A part Aboriginal, Bondi Neale was a keen, versatile sportsman. He played senior cricket with Kurri, senior soccer with Kurri, Weston and Pelaw Main, and Rugby Union and Rugby League with Kurri. About 1912, "Bondi" returned to his native South Coast region. He once threw a cricket ball 66 yards with both hands.

The first ever Cessnock team to play a Gardiner Cup tie in 1913 v Balmain Gladstones, was — R. Elgey, Jim Thomson, G. Rennex, Brown, Clarke, Marshall, W. Thomson, McBlane, Brown, Clayton, Renfrew with Stevenson and Turner as reserves.

• • •

Quite a few ex-Coalfielders have made their mark as sporting scribes. To name a few — George Rickwood (Cessnock), Ralph Hodge (Cessnock), Merv Fenn (Cessnock), Arthur Murphy (Cessnock), Jack Farrell (Cessnock), Wilf McClung (Maitland), Barney O'Neill (Kurri), Perc Johnson (Kurri), Harold Grant (Kurri), Miles Hay (Kurri).

• • •

Another personality, Les Lumsdon of Abermain — popular cartoonist with N.M.H. for decades — also added his skill to soccer early in his career. One of his first soccer sketches on Ed Hodge (Cessnock), won general admiration for its value.

• • •

Shortly after World War I, the South Maitland Soccer Association came into direct conflict with the N.D.B.F.A. over the senior competition. Three clubs, Cessnock, Kurri and Weston, desired to seek stronger opposition by joining the N.D.B.F.A. The fight was finally settled by the N.S.W.S.A. The three teams were allowed to play in the Newcastle series but had to allot a percentage of gate takings to develop junior soccer on the Coalfields.

• • •

SOCCKER has meant much for WESTON; just as WESTON has meant much for SOCCER. The Bears will be the only Coalfields team to compete in the 1980 Northern Federation State League. Activity around the local pitch seems to foretell success.

Won International Honours

The following Coalfields players have won honours in the international field —

P. Lennard (Cessnock)

v N.Z. 1923 — 3 Tests — 2 goals
v China 1923 — 5 Tests — 1 goal
v England 1925 — 4 Tests

J. Gilmour (Weston)

v China 1923 — 1 Test — 2 goals
v Canada 1924 — 1 Test — 2 goals

T. Oliver (Weston)

v China 1923 — 2 Tests
v Canada 1924 — 3 Tests

R. McNaughton (Cessnock)

v Canada 1924 — 2 Tests
v England 1925 — 5 Tests
v Czechoslovakia 1927 — 1 Test

C. Williams (Cessnock)

v Canada 1924 — 2 Tests

G. Rowe (Cessnock)

v Canada 1924 — 1 Test

J. McCroarey (Weston)

v England 1925 — 1 Test

E. Hodge (Cessnock)

v China 1927 — 2 Tests
v Czechoslovakia 1927 — 3 Tests

H. McKissock (Aberdare)

v China 1927 — 1 Test

J. Manion (Weston)

v China 1927 — 1 Test — 1 goal

J. Drinkwater I (Aberdare)

v China 1927 — 1 Test

Bob Austen (Weston)

v New Zealand 1923 — 1 Test

J. McNabb (Weston)

v New Caledonia 1933 — 2 Tests
v New Zealand 1933 — 3 Tests
v New Zealand (in N.Z.) 1936 — 3 Tests
v English Amateurs 1937 — 1 Test
v India 1938 — 4 Tests
v Palestine 1939 — 4 Tests

J. B. Evans (Cessnock)

v New Caledonia 1933 — 3 Tests
v New Zealand 1933 — 3 Tests
v New Zealand (in N.Z.) 1936 — 3 Tests
v English Amateurs 1937 — 3 Tests
v India 1938 — 5 Tests
v Palestine 1939 — 5 Tests

Jack Taylor (Cessnock)

v New Zealand 1933 — 1 Test

Jim Harden (Weston)

v New Zealand (in N.Z.) 1936 — 3 Tests

Jim Wilkinson (Weston)

v New Zealand (in N.Z.) 1936 — 3 Tests
v English Amateurs 1937 — 1 Test
v India 1938 — 4 Tests — 3 goals
v Palestine 1939 — 3 Tests — 2 goals
v China 1941 — 5 Tests — 5 goals

T. Harris (Weston)

v English Amateurs 1937 — 2 Tests
v Palestine 1939 — 1 Test

W. Lonergan (Weston)

v China 1941 — 3 Tests — 10 goals

Kev O'Neill (Cessnock)

v Yugoslavia 1948 — 1 Test
v South Africa (in S.A.) 1950 — 4 Tests
v England 1951 — 4 Tests
v China 1953 — 4 Tests
v New Zealand 1954 — 2 Tests
v Austria Rapids 1955 — 4 Tests
v South China 1955 — 1 Test
v South Africa 1955 — 2 Tests
v F.K. Austria 1957 — 3 Tests
v East China 1957 — 1 Test
v Fenez 1957 — 1 Test
v Blackpool 1958 — 4 Tests
v New Zealand (in N.Z.) 1958 — 2 Tests
v Hearts 1959 — 3 Tests

Johnny Barr (Cessnock)

v China 1957 — 1 Test
v Hearts 1958 — 1 Test

Jack Drinkwater II (Cessnock)

v China 1957 — 1 Test — 3 goals
v Feren 1957 — 1 Test

Jack Lennard (Cessnock)

v New Zealand 1954 — 2 Tests
v South Africa 1955 — 1 Test
v F.K. Austria 1957 — 2 Tests
v China 1957 — 2 Tests
v Feren 1957 — 2 Tests — 1 goal
v Hearts 1959 — 1 Test
v India 1956 — 1 Test

Cliff Almond (Cessnock)

v China 1953 — 3 Tests
v Rapids 1955 — 5 Tests
v South China 1955 — 3 Tests
v South Africa 1955 — 3 Tests
v Blackpool 1958 — 1 Test

Lou Hearne (Kurri Kurri)

v China 1953 — 1 Test
v New Zealand 1954 — 2 Tests

Jack Pettigrew (Cessnock)

v South Africa 1955 — 1 Test
v F.K. Austria 1957 — 2 Tests
v Feren 1957 — 2 Tests
v Hearts 1959 — 2 Tests
v Blackpool 1958 — 1 Test
v India 1956 — 1 Test

Coalfielders with outside clubs

A. "Dutchy" Phillips (Kurri Kurri)
v China 1923 — 1 Test — 2 goals
v England 1925 — 1 Test

Aub Teece (Weston)
v English Amateurs 1937 — 1 Test
A. "Duckie" Henwood (Aberdare)
v India 1938 — 2 Tests
v Palestine 1939 — 1 Test

J. Wallace (Aberdare)
v China 1941 — 3 Tests

L. Burnett (Cessnock)
v China 1941 — 1 Test

V. Barnett (Kurri Kurri)
v China 1941 — 1 Test — 1 goal

Alec Heaney (Cessnock)
v South Africa 1947 — 3 Tests
v England 1951 — 1 Test

George Russell (Cessnock)
v Yugoslavia 1945 — 1 Test — 1 goal
v England 1951 — 1 Test

Phil Peters (Cessnock)
v South Africa 1955 — 1 Test

Les Brown (Cessnock)
v England 1925 — 1 Test

Olympic Games

Melbourne, 1956

J. Lennard (Cessnock) 2 Tests —
v Japan v India

J. Pettigrew (Cessnock) 2 Tests —
v Japan v India

Honours Under Federation

1. WORLD CUP TIES
W. "Bill" Rorke (Kearsley)
v North Korea 1965 — 1 Test
- John Roberts (Cessnock)*
v North Korea 1965 — 1 Test

2. OTHER TESTS

W. "Bill" Rorke (Kearsley)
 v Hong Kong 1965 — 2 Tests
 v A.I.K. Stockholm 1965 — 1 Test
 v Cambodia 1965 — 1 Test
 v Roma 1966 — 1 Test
 v Scotland 1967 — 2 Tests

Winners of "Sydney Morning Herald"

"Best and Fairest"
 1952 — Cliff Almond (Cessnock)
 1959 — Johnny Barr (Cessnock)
 1966 — Ian Thomson (Weston)
 1973 — Tom Sneddon (Weston)

Father and Son in Internationals

Percy Lennard (Cessnock) — father
 Jack Lennard (Cessnock) — son

A Family Game

Right from its inception, the soccer code has been a family game. There are a number of sets of brothers who have performed in the top grade. There is also a "father and son" group worth recording.

Brothers

The outstanding group was the Hodge family of Whitburn Stars (near Greta). In one season, there were nine brothers, namely Perce, Alex, George, Jack, Garnet, Alf, Fred, Artie and Henry.

Other examples are:—

Perce, Reg and Bill Lennard
 Ab, Les and Lyall Rees
 Gordon, Jim, Angus and Keith Thomson
 Cec, George, Ern and Stan Williams
 Bob (Bunny), "Cock", Jack Bowers
 Johnny, Terry and Herb Barr
 Cecil and Cyril Mowatt
 Jim and George Wilkinson
 Jim and Jack Hogg
 Ray and Peter Simons
 Theo and Trevor Jurd
 Jack, Jimmy and Dick Bates
 Jim (Dummy) and Ellis Williams
 Harold (Gina) and Jim Pringle
 Ern and Jim (Nigger) Kemp

(Cessnock)
 (Kurri Kurri)
 (Cessnock)
 (Cessnock)
 (Kurri Kurri)
 (Kurri Kurri)
 (Cessnock)
 (Kearsley)
 (Cessnock)
 (Kurri Kurri)
 (Aberdare)
 (Hebburn)
 (Weston)
 (Kurri Kurri)
 (Weston)

Noey and Bill Price
 George and Bill Winship
 Jack and George Avis
 Jack (Digger) and Cliff Evans
 Sam and Bob (Scotty) Wells
 George and Art Willets
 Jim and Dave Marshall
 Ray and Roy McNaughton
 Jack I and Dick Drinkwater
 "Boxer" and Harold (Porky) Goodwin
 Bob, Dick and Les Austen
 Jim and Herb Bellamy
 Hugh and Joe Orr
 Herb and Wes Smith
 "Chilla" and Jack Foulkes
 Phil and Roy Johns
 Alec and Andy Renfrew
 Jack and "Fido" Stewart
 Bill and Jim Tweedle

(Kurri Kurri)
 (Kurri Kurri)
 (Weston)
 (Aberdare)
 (Kurri Kurri)
 (Kurri Kurri)
 (Paxton)
 (Cessnock)
 (Neath)
 (Kurri Kurri)
 (Weston)
 (Weston)
 (Paxton)
 (Weston)
 (Kurri Kurri)
 (Cessnock)
 (Cessnock)
 (Kurri Kurri)
 (Weston)

Father and Son

Perce Lennard and son, Jack
 Andy McNaughton and sons, Roy and Ray
 Ern Kemp and son, Ern
 Dick Drinkwater and son, Jack
 Alec Heaney and son, Gary
 Alec Thomson and son, Bill
 Jimmy Thomson and sons, Angus, Jim, Gordon and Keith
 Jim Nelson and son, Jim
 Herb Porteus and son, Jimmy
 Tom Durie and son, Phil
 Jackie Peters and son, Phil
 Alf Hodges and son, Alfie
 Wedge Durie and son, Tom
 Bob Harden Snr. and son, Bobby
 "Bildo" Edwards and son, Bill
 Tom Heuston and son, Tom

(Cessnock)
 (Cessnock)
 (Weston)
 (Cessnock)
 (Whitburn)
 (Cessnock)
 (Cessnock)
 (Aberdare)
 (Greta)

Referees

There has always been a group of devoted referees to help develop the code on the Coalfields. One, Tom Crawford, was the first "tooter" to advocate oral and written tests for candidates.

Among the pioneers were Tom Rennix (Cessnock), G. Spowart (Cessnock), Harry Speers (Kurri), Bob Skillings (Kurri), Billy McBlane (Kurri), Geo Newton (Cessnock), F. Jennings (Weston).

Later came Jim Earp (Kurri), Geo Holliday (Kurri), W. Tweedle (Weston), J. Endean (Neath), Tom Crawford (Cessnock), H. C. Hincks (Abermain), Les Penniment (Abermain), Wal Tromans (Kurri), Stan Field (Kurri), Art Willetts (Kurri), Bert Myall (Kurri), Nev Shaw (Aberdare), T. Gilmour (Abermain), Bob Clark (Kurri), Bob Cox (Kurri), Tom Heuston (Greta), Charlie Perry (Hebburn), W. Criek (Kurri), P. Moore, D. Jack, C. Senior, T. Johns, Driffield, B. Evans, Nicholson, Robertson, Hollingsworth, McLeish, Linsley and others.

Referee in test match

Wal Tromans (Kurri Kurri).